

# THE TIMES

## Country comes first, Prime Minister tells firemen

The Prime Minister told demonstrating firemen at Neath, West Glamorgan, last night that he sympathized with them, but the country came first. Earlier the Home Secretary had admitted in a message to local authorities that there seemed to be no likelihood that the proposed national strike, starting on Monday, could be averted. Up to 12,000 Servicemen are on standby.

## 12,000 troops stand by as peace talks fail

By Michael Horsnell and Donald MacIntyre

Up to 12,000 Servicemen are now standing by to take over from the 48,000 firemen threatening to start a national strike on Monday.

And leaders of the Fire Brigades Union made clear late last night that the strike planned would go ahead. Six hours of talks had failed to produce a settlement on their 30 per cent pay claim.

There are no plans for further talks or negotiating meetings until Wednesday, two days after the strike is due to begin.

The Home Office finalizing contingency plans confirmed yesterday that it had told chief fire officers that no Servicemen would be allowed to enter fire stations or use their equipment in an attempt to avoid exacerbating the industrial dispute.

The Servicemen will man "Green Goddess" appliances until in the 1950s as part of the Civil Defence service and which have been kept in Home Office depots ever since.

In London, for example, about 100 of them will be brought into service, compared with the 250 modern appliances normally in use.

Fire stations will be locked many areas, and Servicemen will be based at strategic points, such as Territorial Army barracks, where special communications equipment will be adequate links with fire fighters.

Mr. Ward, the main difficulty in the answering of 999 calls, the Home Secretary, was known still to be hoping that talks in the Fire Brigades' National Joint Council will lead to a settlement or at least delay the firemen's proposed action.

The council, on which the firemen and local government employers are represented, has been almost constantly in session in recent days, but there did not appear yesterday to be an opportunity for ministers to intervene.

I still cannot believe that I will not respond when an emergency call comes. I will not do it until I see it happen," Mr. Ward, chief fire officer in Cheshire, said yesterday.

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Mr. Rees said fire drills should be practised in factories, schools, hospitals and in the home. Fire fighting equipment should be checked, and extra care should be taken to observe local fire instructions.

The Home Secretary's circular added that Servicemen on fire duty would probably be unfamiliar with a locality and with the layout of hazards of any particular building. He appealed to people with local knowledge to help wherever possible.

The Government had a difficult task in deciding how to deploy the fire fighting units that can be provided by the Forces, and ministers still have no clear idea yesterday of how many brigades would refuse to join in the industrial action.

The right of firemen to strike was questioned yesterday by Mr. Geoffrey Boyes, assistant chief fire officer in West

Yorksire. Although the men have a genuine grievance, the Home Office should consider whether it should be made illegal for firemen to strike, he said.

Full-time firemen in Clwyd, Wales, will cross picket lines on Monday despite a warning that their action may cost them their jobs.

Mr. Raymond Williams, aged 38, of Rhiw, said last night: "We were told the union would not ride with us to fires when the dispute is over, and this could cost us our jobs. Now I have been informed that the employers cannot guarantee me my job if I work from Monday."

Britain's largest property insurance company, Sun Alliance, said yesterday: "There are no restrictions in our policies regarding fire brigades, so cover will not be affected by the threatened strike. However, the strike will make the observance of normal fire warranties more important than ever."

Policyholders are urged to check sprinklers and other fire extinguishing appliances as a matter of urgency."

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He said he sympathized with them but the country came first.

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## Captured terror suspect was sought for Schleyer murder

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Nov 11

The West German Federal Criminal Office said today that one of the terrorist suspects captured after a gunfight in Amsterdam last night was Card Michael Schneider, aged 28, and not Clemens Wagner, as had been stated by the Dutch police.

It confirmed that the other was Christoph Wackerl, aged 26, one of the 16 people wanted for the kidnapping and murder of Dr. Hans-Martin Schleyer and other crimes.

The suspect, who was arrested in Karlsruhe and Kaiserslautern, Herr

Schneider's home town, in connection with the attack which caused damage but no injury.

There were no indications that Herr Schneider had been involved in the Schleyer kidnapping. The arrests indicated that the "hard core" of six terrorists and a little-known group operating in south-west Germany.

The arrests were the first breakthrough in the European-wide search for the 16 terrorists.

A spokesman for the office said that more were believed to be hiding in the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe.

Herr Wackerl, a former film crew man, is also suspected of taking part in the murders of Siegfried Babbeck, the federal prosecutor, Jürgen Ponto, the Dresden court chief, earlier this year. He is believed to have taken the photographs and the video film of Herr Schleyer which were sent to the Government during the kidnapping as proof that

the industrialist was alive. Extremists had been hiding for months in a working-class suburb of Amsterdam. The two members of the Red Army Group were shot and

seriously wounded last night in a gun battle with police after leaving their refuge, a six-story apartment in the west of the city.

Both were seriously wounded in the combat with police and Herr Schneider died tonight to near death. Three police officers wounded during the battle were reported to be in satisfactory condition—AP and UPI.

Stuttgart, Nov 11.—The scandal surrounding the prison break of the three Baader-Meinhof leaders widened today when it emerged that explosives were found in their cell block.

The public prosecutor's office said that builders carrying out excavation work on the seventh floor of the top-security Stammheim Jail found about 14oz of explosives and three detonators.

Some of the explosives were recovered after the collapse of the Third Reich in 1945, but eight of the stamps could not be traced. They were an orange penny and a blue twopence dated 1847 from Mauritius; a two-cent magenta dated 1850 and a four-cent blue dated 1856 from British Guiana; a two-cent and a five-cent so-called Hawaiian "missionaries" dated 1851-52; a three-cent and a four-cent Hawaiian Islands-United States.

The twopence blue Mauritius and the 13-cent Hawaiian Islands-United States stamp—both on covers—are almost legendary issues. The eight missing stamps turned up 14 months ago in a trunk in the attic of a retired man in suburban Philadelphia. He failed to sell them at a stamp exhibition and was tentatively offered \$500,000 (£270,000). Then the would-be buyers became wary.

When informed on September 28 by a customs agent that the stamps were officially listed as stolen from the Imperial Postal Museum in Berlin, the man surrendered them to the United States Customs office in Philadelphia. Now, however, the United States Government finds itself in a quandary regarding the ultimate ownership of the stamps. East German claims them because they belonged in a museum situated in what is now East Berlin. West Germany contends that they are the rightful property of the Bonn Government, the legal successor of the Third Reich.

West Germany's postal ministry has offered a reward that could amount to \$50,000 for the recovery of the stamps.

But Mr. Martin Apelbaum, a Philadelphia stamp dealer, who has examined the above, says the ownership question may be further complicated because he has heard rumours that Nazi authorities might have illegally confiscated the stamps from a private collection in the first place.

A State Department official who has dealt with initial soundings from both West and East German Governments, venturing claims to the stamps, said it was "going to be an agonizing decision".

The reappearance of the stamps and the international legal problems they have raised were pieced together from interviews with Customs officials, stamp experts, and diplomats.

As related by Mr. Robert Laratta, special agent of the United States Customs office in Philadelphia, the man who surrendered them got the idea that he might have something valuable during a private exhibition in Philadelphia in the autumn of 1976.

He saw a notice in a local newspaper that at the exhibition \$300,000, the recovered, and that rewards were offered in his

Power men's stewards vote to end dispute

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

The power workers' unofficial pay revolt and vote-to-end dispute fizzled out yesterday when the shop stewards' committee voted to reject a strike call and recommended a return to normal working as soon as possible. No further power cuts are expected.

The end of the 17-day dispute which has cost the industry between £15m and £20m, came at a meeting of the shop stewards in Doncaster, where industrial action was first called over shift pay and other fringe benefits. It was decided to call off the work-to-rule from 10pm last night.

By last night only two power stations, the 2,000-megawatt Fiddler's Ferry on Merseyside and the atomic plant of Wyldon on Anglesey, were out of action.

The shop stewards recognized that the man would not need the militant call for an all-out strike which had been made by Yorkshire shop stewards leaders.

Mr. Glyn Jenkins, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, welcomed the return to normal work and said the first priority was to restore public confidence in the industry. "It has been shaken, although I am sure that the determination of the great majority of electricity production has gone unnoticed by the general public," he said.

The CEB had calculated that after making a surplus of nearly £150m last year, it would only break even this year. The chances of achieving even that limited target are now considered slight.

Although the power cuts have ended, the work of returning to normal output at all power stations is likely to take several weeks more, mainly maintenance and production schedules have been disrupted.

The men's action has won them travelling allowances of 80p to £2 a week, but their two other demands, for increased shift allowances and concessionary electricity on the lines of the miners' free coal, will not be answered until the employers reply to the annual pay claim next spring.

Mr. Benn accused, page 2

## Security guard killed in IRA car bomb attack

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

A civilian security man was killed yesterday and four people were taken to hospital when a car bomb planted by the Provisional IRA exploded in a crowded shopping street near the cause of Belfast. It was the first car bomb to explode in the city for more than four months.

The device was in a hijacked van which parked outside the local office of the Daily Mirror newspaper, the *Irish Independent*. It exploded shortly after 2.30 pm as Mr. Patrick Shields, aged 52, the security guard at the vehicle, approached the vehicle. Two young women and two children were taken to hospital suffering from shock.

## HOME NEWS

## British capability for conventional war limited unless Nato policy is changed, ministry says

By Michael Harfield  
Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence said last night that Britain would not be able to fight a conventional war beyond a certain number of days unless there was a change in Nato policy.

Without such a change the result would be nuclear conflict and under present policies Britain had no plans to reinforce its conventional military capability.

The admissions were made yesterday, Armistice Day, by the Ministry of Defence in response to criticisms made by the all-party Commons committee on expenditure in May. Mr Ian Gilmour, Opposition spokesman on Defence, said last night that it was another demonstration of the effect of the Government's five rounds of defence cuts.

## Benn role in power dispute is criticized

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

What he called the refusal of Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, to support the Government's policy on wage restraint in the dispute between the power station workers and the Central Electricity Generating Board was criticized last night by Mr Prior, the Opposition spokesman on employment.

In a statement made after consultation with Mrs Thatcher, the Opposition leader Mr Prior said that Mr Benn's attitudes to the power station workers' dispute were sinister and merited the fullest scrutiny.

"It has been alleged that he presumes the CECB to recognize the unofficial shop stewards committee and to pay normal wages to those on strike," Mr Prior said. "He has not denied this and we can only assume that it is true."

Mr Prior said that that spoke "eloquent volumes" about Mr Benn's views on industrial relations and the future of British society. It had great significance when viewed in connection with Mr Benn's hopes in the Labour Party. That was a reference to Mr Benn's ambition to succeed to the leadership.

"In doing this Mr Benn must have been aware that what he was suggesting would undermine not only the employers' authority but also that of the regional and national officials of the trade unions involved," Mr Prior said.

"He must have been aware too that he was asking his reported efforts last week."

## Bill empowers GMC to suspend sick doctors

By a Staff Reporter

The General Medical Council will have powers under the terms of the Medical Bill, published yesterday, to suspend or attach conditions to the registration of doctors whose mental or physical health makes them unfit to practise without endangering their patients.

The Bill seeks to implement some of the main conditions of the Merrison Committee's draft for the reconstruction of the GMC with a majority for the first time of members elected by registered doctors. Wales will gain its own branch council, but the 1927

ministry's reply stated that the Government had accepted that in the interests of speed and early readiness and given strict limits on the width of the range of remedies some of the resolution confirmed in the Commons' report could be reduced.

Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, accepted the Commons' report that no plans exist, and none are envisaged, to bring in relevant forces after an unspecified number of days. That is believed to be 40 days after Nato becomes involved in a European war.

The Commons' report stated that it was believed that if other Nato countries were to follow United Kingdom policy there could be a danger, after conventional conflict and with no resolution of the political negotiations, that Nato would be left with no further flexibility.

## Government 'reaping whirlwind of policies'

The Labour Government and the country were now reaping the whirlwind for Labour Party policies in 1970-74, Sir Geoffrey Howe QC, opposition spokesman on economic affairs, said in Wakefield last night.

He said that before it came to power the Labour Party gave every encouragement to militancy in the unions, and Mr Callaghan, with many of his colleagues, bore a heavy responsibility for the winter of disruption that lay ahead.

The Grunwick phenomenon was a continuing reminder of the lessons taught by Labour in opposition and which were now being so painfully learned.

For how many more weeks will the Metropolitan Police force have to muster up to a quarter of their strength in one street in North London?

"How much longer will 'Marshall Scarff' and his army of irregulars continue to exert their muscle in this way?"

Were it not for the presence of the police, those employees who wish to go to work at Grunwick would be unable to do so. If the right of 'peaceful persuasion' was to prevail simply because of the muscle and violence with which it is accompanied, then an open invitation to anarchy would have been extended."

Sir Geoffrey suggested that it was time for Mr Callaghan to explain that the rights and wrongs of the dispute were even now being considered by the highest court in the land and in accordance with laws that were dictated by the trade union movement.

"Mr Callaghan has already been obliged to tell trade unionists that there is a limit to the pay that the nation can afford for this or that or any other group of workers," Sir Geoffrey said. "Now that he is himself responsible for the nation's affairs, he has no option but to explain that truth."

**Canaleto's may**

On the eve of Works of Art Day, yesterday discussed the possibility of withholding licences for the export of four paintings of Warwick Castle by Canaleto, which have been sold to the United States.

Officials would not say whether it had been decided to recommend withholding licences to give collectors in the United Kingdom an opportunity to buy.

Mrs Thatcher sees some of Leyland's difficulties

From Our Correspondent Oxford

Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, who visited the Leyland car assembly plant at Cowley yesterday, saw regular self.

She could not see the electro-

coat paint process in operation because there were no car bodies going through at the time of her visit. The flow of bodies into the assembly plant had been interrupted because power cuts had affected welding.

Many workers told Mrs Thatcher that the main reason for production falling short was a lack of continuity of supplies.

The free pardon for girl to be recommended

A free pardon is to be recommended by Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, for a girl aged 13 convicted of trying to give herself an abortion. He is also recommending a pardon for her brother, aged 16, who was convicted of helping her.

The girl was tried at Warwick Juvenile Court in September and given a supervision order for two years. She had taken six laxative tablets and a hot bath to try to induce an abortion. Her brother was given a conditional discharge for 12 months.

The free pardons are being recommended because the convictions are considered unsound but cannot be tested in the courts as the two defendants pleaded guilty. Earlier this week the Director of Public Prosecutions sent an apology to the prosecutions. They were brought under the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861, which had never previously been used in this century.

**Doorman shot in raid**

A doorman received a broken leg when shot by robbers who escaped with £4,000 in a raid at IPC Business Press in Bowring Green Lane, Clerkenwell, London, yesterday.

**Mr Callaghan's climb**

When Callaghan was developed in November 1967, it cast doubt on the political prospects of Mr James Callaghan, who was Chancellor. Callaghan's exclusive serialization of the Richard Crossman diaries opened in the spring of 1968 when Mr Callaghan, as Home Secretary, was already moving back to a position from which he could defy the Prime Minister.

**£6,043 for photograph of female nudes**

By Geraldine Norman  
Salon Room Correspondent

A photograph of three female nudes, taken in the 1950s by Thomas Eakins, the distinguished American Realist painter, became the most expensive photographic image ever sold at auction when it brought \$10,000 (£5,000), or \$2,043, at Sotheby Parke-Bernet in New York on Thursday.

The photograph, one of 21 photographs taken by Eakins, who had studied in Paris under Germaine Bonnard; he was an outstanding Realist painter in the academic tradition, his dissection of anatomy, the dissection of cadavers and photography of naked men and women.

The photographs, for 11 of

which no other prints are known, include pictures of male students both posed in classical robes and naked, engaged in athletics, and were entitled to female nudes.

Eakins did not paint the nudes, the auctioneers had predicted, the fact that they had been acquired by the Olympia Galleries, the dealers, in 1974, and a catalogue of them was published that year, may partially explain that.

Seven of the photographs were unsold, the knock-down total coming to \$10,000 (£5,000). The price of stamps in 1950, £1.20, was £1.20.

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## Stricter view of foreign visitors by academy

By Peter Strafford

The British Academy in future will not be prepared automatically to accept research grants to Britain by Professor Václav Král, head of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Institute in Prague.

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## HOME NEWS

**NCB offers to alter policy over pit pay**

By Paul Routhledge

Labour Editor

The National Coal Board is willing to shift from wholly centralized pay bargaining to permit pit productivity deals if leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers agree to the change of policy.

That is the meaning of a vaguely worded conclusion to the board's letter of response rejecting miners' demands for 90 per cent pay rises from November 1 in defiance of the TUC's 12-month rule.

It will reinforce the determination of coalfield moderates who want to circumvent the secret pithead ballot that rejected local incentives last week.

The last paragraph of the board's letter, which went largely unnoticed because attention was focused on the rejection of the men's claim, said: "We welcome the initiative taken by national officials of the union last week, and share their concern in calling for an increased local contribution in order to secure the future of the industry as envisaged in the Plan for Coal. We would be ready to discuss this."

The area executive of the Lancashire miners voted 16 to two yesterday to support a scheme on the lines of that rejected in the pithead ballot. News of the move was given to Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, when he visited Parkside Colliery, Merseyside.

Lancashire miners' leaders thus join a host of moderate areas wanting freedom to negotiate individual schemes. North Wales, South Derbyshire, Leicestershire, the Midlands, Nottinghamshire and Northumbria are also seeking local incentives, but the issue is in abeyance until early December, when the NUM productivity bargaining committee will report to the national executive on the principle of pit schemes.

The productivity committee is collecting evidence about alleged "underhand" deals at eight pits in Scotland, the North-east, Lancashire, the Midlands and North Derbyshire, where local incentives are being paid, according to moderate sources.

Mr Benn said at Parkside: "Any one who thinks that this is a rerun of 1973-74 with Mr Heath has completely misunderstood what is going on".



An ambulance used to help to recreate a First World War field hospital at the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps training centre, Aldershot, yesterday. The demonstration marked the founding 75 years ago of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

**Talks about secrecy on decoding**

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister and the senior ministers have concluded on security and intelligence matters will decide in the next few weeks whether conditions of absolute secrecy enjoined on all who were privy to most secret information about code-breaking at the government code and cipher school in the last war shall be eased now that the first batch of wartime deciphered messages is available at the Public Record Office in Kew.

Since news of their release appeared in *The Times* last month several individuals engaged in the work have pointed out, in our correspondence, that documents placed on classified files had been officially lifted in a number of instances. News of the availability of "deciphered" papers, as the deciphered messages are known, at the Public Record Office, has therefore caused confusion and concern.

The last statement from the Government on the issue was given in a parliamentary reply by Mr Rodgers, then Minister of State for Defence, on December 13, 1974. He told the Commons that the undertakings given by men and women engaged in wartime intelligence

under the Official Secrets Act still applied. Anyone wishing to write an account of those years should consult his former department and the "deemed committee".

Mr Cuthell, in reviewing the second position, has begun consultations with the government communications headquarters (the peacetime successor to the government code and cipher school), the secret intelligence service, security service, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Cabinet Office and the Law Officers.

The manner is being treated as an issue of broad policy with flags as well as security implications. It is most unlikely that blanket freedom to disclose will emerge from present discussions at the Public Record Office, as it is being handled in a carefully controlled fashion. This controlled message will give some supporting material to the methods used in compiling them or the individuals involved.

Ministers are also likely to take a decision in the next few weeks on whether to publish an official history of wartime secret intelligence at present under preparation in the Cabinet Office by a team of researchers led by Professor E.

**Bequest of 'no smoke' pub declined**

By Alan Hamilton

Mr John Showers, proprietor of the New Inn, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Yorkshire, displayed an uncommon streak of generosity while drawing up his will. He decided to leave his popular and profitable public house in the Yorkshire Dales to the Royal National Life-Boat Institution.

The second volume will be completed next year. Indications in Whitehall at present are that the study will be published subject to certain excisions in areas of continuing sensitivity.

Ministers and intelligence officials are particularly concerned that information about techniques used in wartime code-breaking shall not survive.

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**University pay 'anomalies' must be rectified**By Diana Gledhill  
Education Correspondent

The Government must rectify the "outrageous anomaly" in the pay of university lecturers and professors. Dr Keith Hampshire, a backbench Conservative spokesman on education, told the Tory Reform Group in Oxford yesterday. About six-thousand university teachers are expected to abandon their lectures on Tuesday for a day of protest over pay in London.

Dr Hampshire produced figures to show that between 1970 and 1976 the starting salary for a university lecturer has gone up by 2.7 per cent in real terms, and the salary of a university professor has gone down in real terms by 17.8 per cent.

Taking a comparable profession, that of medicine, Dr Hampshire said that during the same six-year period, the hospital houseman's pay had gone up by 24 per cent in real terms and that of a hospital registrar by 17.7 per cent, again in real terms. Ministers' pay had increased by 3.2 per cent.

The Government, he said, had failed to deliver the wage increase promised.

He has been refused release on parole to attend the weekend meeting next Saturday of his second daughter, Sandra, aged 20.

"We need the strategy of

"I have only one ashtray in my hotel, and it has a coffin on it," he said yesterday. He has not smoked since he was a child, but he became an anti-smoking evangelist when a close friend died of cancer. He says he has a secret anti-smoking recipe, and once cooked a Welsh tobacco salesman of the world.

He thought the RNLI would appreciate him, and that its members would provide a Welsh tobacco salesman of the world.

"They could do well if they dressed the place up a bit nautical and flew the RNLI flag. The pub would be packed.

He is it is now in the summer."

Captain Nigel Dixon, director of the institution, thought otherwise. He thanked Mr Showers for his offer, which carried the condition that the smoking ban should continue in perpetuity, but regretted they could not accept, as they had no facilities to manage a public house.

Mr Showers, who is aged 73 and a bachelor, says he has been offered £50,000 cash for his inn, but will not sell until he dies or finds a buyer he can trust to maintain the no-smoking rule.

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The Government, decided in 1975 that university teachers were due for a 20 per cent pay increase. But that settlement became caught-up in the pay row, and the teachers received only 4 per cent.

Dr Hampshire accused the Government of having "ignored and exploited the universities" because they have no political muscle. His policy has created a crisis of morale in the universities and the attitude of Uioviots towards the Dublin government.

Questioned on Irish Radio about his failure to deliver the prepared anti-IRA speech, Mr O'Kearney said it had been decided to address the Irish-American audience informally.

The Opposition leader, Dr Fitzgerald, was this week refused permission in the Dail to ask ministers about their apparent refusal to take any action to return Mr Stagg's remains to their original grave 70 yards from the republican plot in Ballinasloe, Co Mayo. It is understood that he will raise the matter again on Tuesday and point out that it was Mr Stagg's

widow's wish that he should be given an IRA burial.

Yesterday Mr O'Kearney denied that the secret records had been tampered with by the government.

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## OVERSEAS

## General with liberal outlook takes over control in Thailand

From Neil Kelly  
Bangkok, Nov 11

After four years with civilians as heads of government Thailand returned to a normal tonight with the installation by King Bhumibol of General Kriangsak Charnmavanich, the supreme military commander, as Prime Minister.

He will also assume control of the powerful Interior Ministry.

General Kriangsak was the dominant figure in the two most recent coups—the overthrow of the democratically elected government in October last year and the dismissal last month of the civilian government he had helped to appoint.

Under the terms of the new interim constitution General Kriangsak can be dismissed from the prime ministership only by the chairman of the National Security Council.

Admiral Saengd Chaloroy, his predecessor, has been given a post as a member of both the cabinet and the council of 23 senior military and police officers.

General Kriangsak will have the same power to order summary executions or imprison suspects without trial as was held by the previous prime minister and earlier military dictator in Thailand.

The new National Assembly which is to be appointed by the members of the National Policy Council will be mainly a rubber-stamp body without powers to dismiss the Government or propose laws.

Under the interim constitution general elections must be held within the next 17 months before that a special committee of the National Assembly will draft a new permanent constitution.

General Kriangsak has already promised to give priority to the strengthening and

## Birds carry evidence of nuclear disaster

By Philip Howard

Migratory birds, flying south to escape from the cold of the Russian winter, still carry in their bones and muscle evidence of the nuclear disaster that occurred in the southern Urals 20 years ago.

Dr Zhora Medvedev, the dissident Soviet biochemist now working at the National Institute for Medical Research in London, has examined these winged witnesses and found confirmation of his theory of what happened in 1958. He publishes his findings in an important article in this week's issue of *New Scientist*.

Dr Medvedev believes that the disaster was caused by nuclear reactor wastes, which, in spite of warnings from nuclear scientists, had been buried at shallow depth only a few dozen miles from the town of Blagoveshchensk, in the Urals.

An enormous explosion like a volcano eruption caused hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of cases of radiation sickness. It left a very large area between the industrial cities of Cheljabinsk and Sverdlovsk heavily polluted by strontium 90 and caesium 137.

Soviet sources have described his account as science fiction. More disinterested scientists have suggested that it was probably caused by a radioactive product from a major and accidental explosion in a nuclear reactor. Ducks and other winged messengers from the Urals carry evidence in their bones that Dr Medvedev is right.

Cesium 137 is not retained long in the flesh and muscles of animals, while strontium 90 remains fixed in their bones for many years. If the current level of contamination in the birds was the result of freshly discharged fission products in 1958, then the initial radiation must have been extremely high, so high that no animal or forest life could be expected to survive in the polluted area, only the simplest of plant forms.

This was certainly not the case. The state of the ecology, together with the level of strontium 90 in the bones of ducks and other animals such as pike surviving from 1958, confirm the theory that the disaster was caused by old nuclear waste materials.

Fortified by his birds, Dr Medvedev says: "Some experts still prefer to see this as a major reactor accident, but I think the original explosion... That the disaster involved nuclear waste is much closer to the truth, although it may be an unpalatable truth for those nuclear experts who argue that only military reactors create real problems."

The Ven Thich Man Giai, a senior Thai official said his country wanted the meeting. The Foreign Ministry would ask the Thai Embassy in Vientiane to contact the Cambodian embassy there with a view to holding the talks. —Reuter.

## Vietnamese Buddhist says Hanoi has broken faith

By Robert Parker

A leading Buddhist monk has begun a campaign to condemn the religious persecution and complete denial of human rights that he says are being enforced in Vietnam.

He is the Venerable Thich Mu Giai, one of the nine highest Buddhists in the country who managed to escape to Malaysia in a fishing boat. He belongs to the order of monks who in the late 1950s began burning themselves alive in the streets of Saigon.

Through his interpreter, he told *The Times* in an interview in London that the Government of the People's Committee of far worse denial of human rights than the old regime and its American supporters.

His order had supported the new regime publicly and privately when it took over in 1975, but it had soon become apparent that the authorities were determined to destroy them.

"Having faith in the promises of national reconciliation, made by the Provisional Revolutionary Government, Buddhists in Vietnam have done their utmost to co-operate with the revolutionary Government since the day of liberation," he said.

The authorities, however, had pursued what he called a policy of shattering religious communities, Roman Catholics as well as Buddhists. He estimated that 400 Catholic priests were in jail.

"The Government has

arrested hundreds of monks and confiscated hundreds of pagodas, converting them into government administration buildings," he said.

The Ven Thich Mu Giai said that anyone whose family had had any connexion with the Army or the old regime was being denied all fundamental rights. An orphan he knew, whose father had been in the South Vietnamese Army, was, like many others, being starved to death, being virtually starved to death.

They were also alleged to have tried to kill government and party leaders at the funeral of a vice-president of the People's Supreme Council last May. —Reuter.

## Laotians on trial for plotting assassinations

Hongkong, Nov 11.—Twenty-six Laotians are on trial in Vientiane on charges of planning to assassinate and trying to assassinate Laos' leader in hiding, Mr Kaysone Phomvihane, the Prime Minister, last December, it was reported today.

They were also alleged to have tried to kill government and party leaders at the funeral of a vice-president of the People's Supreme Council last May. —Reuter.

The same is true about Nato.

But neither Nato nor the EEC was evidently in the minds of the voters who crowded the campaign headquarters of the New Democracy candidate in Serrès, near here. One delegation asked for authority to cut a road through a tourist camping site to have access to the beach; a man was anxious to obtain information about the fate of an inmate of the Athenaeum asylum; another wanted his younger who had failed university examinations to be given another chance.

The seven main political parties contesting the elections on November 20 have elaborate platforms—quelling their policies on the important domestic and foreign issues that confront the country.

At village rallies we get more and more questions about the European Community, and how it will affect the farmer," said an official of "Pabol" in Kavala. Pabol is the acronym of the Socialist Movement of Mr Andreas Papandreou, who is making a particular effort to attract the turning votes.

Mr Papandreou opposes

In brief

## Mr Kitson lauds Russians again

Moscow, Nov 11.—Mr Alex Kitson, the British Labour Party official who was heavily criticised in London over a speech earlier this week praising the Soviet Union, appeared on television here today in a recorded broadcast and delivered a glowing tribute to Soviet achievements.

Speaking on the evening news programme, Mr Kitson said: "When I look at the Soviet Union and see the advancement that has taken place in education and health and many other aspects, these can only make you jealous as a member . . . of capitalist society."

## South Africa adopts special powers

Johannesburg, Nov 11.—The South African Government today adopted powers giving it almost total control of the economy. The measures, following the United Nations arms embargo and demands for other economic sanctions, empower the Economic Affairs Minister to order the manufacture or delivery of any goods.

## Heyerdahl launch

Qurna, Iraq, Nov 11.—Mr Thor Heyerdahl's replica of an ancient Sumerian reed boat was launched in the River Tigris today after delays caused by thick mud and a malfunctioning rudder winch.

## Ethiopian murdered

Addis Ababa, Nov 11.—Dr Makonnen Jute, the chief administrator of Ethiopia's central Shoa province, was shot dead today by "enemies of the Ethiopian revolution", the Ministry of the Interior announced.

## Drought kills pelicans

Adelaide, Nov 11.—Thousands of pelicans and other water birds have died in a desperate flight to the sea from dried-up Australian lakes, government wildlife agencies reported today.

## Domestic issues dominate Greek election campaign

From Mario Modiano

A Salonika candidate did not think it necessary even to name the party that claimed his allegiance. But the message came through loud and clear.

Hundreds of posters on the walls showed his photograph and the caption: "Whenever you need him, whenever you will need him, he will stand by you. If you do not know him, ask those who do. There are many of them."

The message illustrated the absence of big issues in next week's Greek elections. Unlike past campaigns, the mood this time is amiable, almost tolerant. Tempers are cool.

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According to officials, estimates for the fiscal year which ended on September 30 now total \$13,000m (about £6,300m) compared with an original forecast of some \$9,300m.

The Administration is trying to blame a computer error for the higher figures. A White House spokesman told reporters today that computers used by the Pentagon had failed to assess the situation accurately. It was a mistake which was being corrected, he claimed.

The Administration's embarrassment is heightened by the fact that President Carter has promised to reduce the sale of arms, which he regards as a threat to international peace.

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# Saturday Review

# The complete housekeeper

by Sarah Freeman

Isabella Beeton's avowed reason for writing her *Book of Household Management* was given in the Preface:

*What moved me in the first instance, to attempt a work like this, was the discomfort and suffering I have seen brought upon men and women by household mismanagement: I have always thought that there is no more foolish source of family discontent than a husband's badly-cooked dinners and untidy ways. Men are now so well served out or doors—at their clubs, well-ordered taverns, and dining houses, that in order to compete with the attractions of these places, a mistress must be thoroughly conversant with the theory and practice of cookery, with all the other arts of making and keeping a comfortable home.*

It was her inclusion of all the other arts which most obviously distinguished her work from that of her rivals, for in spite of the excellence of Soyer and Acton's cookery books, neither they nor any other recent publication covered domestic management as a whole, whereas she dealt in the greatest detail with both housekeeping and the general requirements of a lady; and the rapid enlargement of the middle classes and their exaggerated love of domesticity meant that by the middle of the century such instruction was sorely needed. There were countless women whose husbands had made good, who suddenly found themselves pitched into the position of ladies without any idea of how to live up to their new status; and, on the other hand, there was a veritable army of Boarding-school Misses, who were in the same position *vis-à-vis* housekeeping as Isabella when she got married.



Five-sixths of the book was devoted to the cookery section, which consisted of forty chapters of recipes and background information, arranged systematically, each group of recipes being preceded by an introductory chapter about the type of food, its preparation and the general principles to be observed in preparing it. Every kind of cookery suitable for an ordinary home was covered, from soup to wine-making. Isabella took the food in the order it was eaten at dinner, the most important meal, followed by dishes required at subsidiary meals, and ending with menus, or "bills of fare". Within this plan, she subdivided the main dinner courses into their basic ingredients, in the kind of meat, poultry, game, and vegetables. This was tidier and much easier for reference than the usual arrangement, whereby all the dishes for each course were lumped together.

It was her system of writing recipes, apparently inspired by Eliza Acton's summaries, which was the most remarkable factor about this part of the book. Previous writers had given only the method of preparation; she appended a list with the months when the dish was seasonal, its cooking time, the number of people it served, and its average cost at the bottom of her instructions, and began every recipe by itemizing all the ingredients, with precise weights and measures, so that the cook could check that she had everything she needed in the correct quantities before proceeding. In this way, she eliminated any possibility of uncertainty and transformed domestic cookery from a skill which had to be learnt by experience into an accomplishment which could be practised with reasonable chance of success, even by complete beginners. The importance of this can scarcely be overestimated, and recipes have been written on this pattern ever since.

The most notable overall feature about the recipes themselves was that, contrary to general belief, all of them were basically simple. Isabella never for a moment allowed herself to forget that the people who would use them were untrained, uneducated cooks, and that include preparations demand any kind of specialist skill could be simply defeating her purpose. In this respect, her

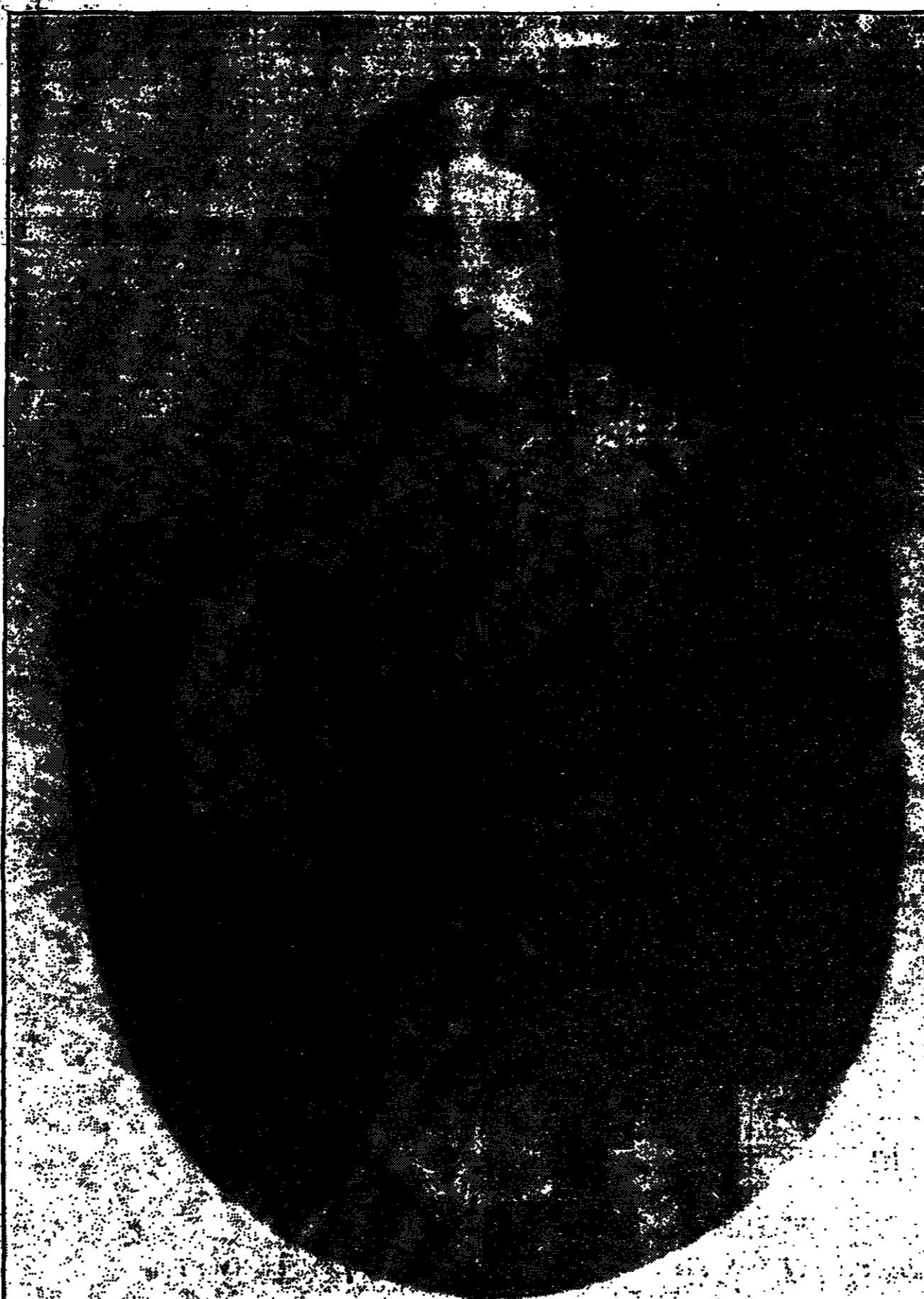
inexperience was the greatest asset she could have had, for she was able to use her own limitations as a measure anything she herself could not manage to carry out. Thus she excluded the French dishes described in the *Regenerator and Modern Cook*, which called for several stages of preparation, extravagant sauces, and elaborate garnishes, and included the traditional English roasts and baked and boiled puddings, which required attention but no expertise (and which, on the evidence of her diary, she herself preferred). Virtually the only exacting recipe to be found in the whole *Book of Household Management* was for turtle soup, which she included because of its special status as a festive dish. For the rest, though there was plenty of chopping and straining for the maid, there was nothing to tax anyone's ability. And this, rather than any gastronomic superiority, was the reason for the popularity of her recipes; some of them were pretty dull, but even the dullest dish properly made was better than foreign delicacies hopelessly bungled.

The third distinguishing factor about the cookery chapters was, predictably enough, her emphasis on economy. Right at the beginning of the book, directly after her comments on cleanliness, she said: "Frugality and economy are home virtues without which no house hold can prosper". She supported this in a variety of ways. Some of her recipes were about as cheap as was consistent with edibility—if soup made of stale crusts or eggless and fatless custard pudding can be so classified. Her family menus were plain in the extreme, and ingeniously devised to use up the previous day's left-overs. Miscellaneous hints on economy were scattered throughout the text wherever relevant: some, such as breaking an egg into a separate bowl to prevent a bad one from contaminating other ingredients, have become a traditional part of kitchen lore. Many are as valid as ever, still as a note above a buy-one-meal-if-the-housekeeper-is-not-very-particular-as-to-the-precise-joints-to-cook-for-dinner, there is oftentimes an opportunity for her to save as much money in her purchase of meat as will pay for the bread to eat with it . . . This was because the best cuts of meat were always in demand, and butchers were often glad to dispose of the cheaper cuts for whatever they could get. Soyer also deplored the English housewife's tendency to buy expensive joints: "Everybody has the bad habit of running only upon a few which are considered the best . . . ten of the prime are in daily use to one of the other, and principally for a waste . . . the knowledge of cookery . . . Isabella's least world, however, for making the servants stretch a little beyond the limits of serving puddings, suet, roasting under the joint before the actual meat, so that they would eat less (a practice frequently resorted to in boarding schools). Most of the food she recommended for children was dreary, partly because of the need for economy in large families, and partly because plain food was considered morally and physically better for them. It is Isabella more than anyone who deserves the blame for the tyranny of narrow dietary boundaries.

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Since almost none of these recipes appeared in other cookery books, it is to be assumed that the magazine of the stockpiling in her readers' homes was not as great as that of Soyer's. According to the latter (again), people in England are nothing but plain boiled vegetables—surprisingly, under those circumstances, more expensive than ever cooked—and all three writers endeavoured to encourage more variety and care in their preparation.

Nowadays, the meat chapters strike one as unrealistic because of the large size of joints recommended, which is partly explained by the fact that they were expected to feed a family for several days (hence the excess of cold meat). The preponderance of roasts also makes them look dull.

Roast beef has long been a national dish in England. In most of our patriotic songs it is contrasted with tricassade frogs, popularly supposed to be the exclusive diet of Frenchmen. Nowadays, the meat chapters strike one as unrealistic because of the large size of joints recommended, which is partly explained by the fact that they were expected to feed a family for several days (hence the excess of cold meat). The preponderance of roasts also makes them look dull.

Her most constructive idea for promoting economy, however, was her policy of giving recipes for all kinds of ready-cooked meat, poultry, and fish. The overriding popularity of these means that people's larders were constantly clogged with the unattractive remains of joints, which for lack of other suggestions were usually served cold just as they were, or worse, reheated just as they were. This presented a problem which Acton, Soyer, and Francatelli recognized but did not tackle systematically. Isabella faced it squarely and gave series of recipes under a special heading, "Cold Meat Cookery", which was also the title of one of her most popular series of articles in the *EDM*. There were nearly 100 soups,

almost 200 sauces, and 128 fish recipes. Isabella echoed Mrs. Engle's belief in the importance of the stockpot in her chapter on soups, adding: "It is not good stock or first broth and sauce, that excellence in cookery depends". She did, however, stress it, as Soyer did, in relation to her sauce recipes, which, remembering that this was the heyday of extravagance and complication of sauces, were particularly distinguished for their simplicity.

But she did not allow herself to be too carried away by her enthusiasm; she was very well aware that on occasion other considerations were bound to prevail, and that luxury, or at least the appearance of it, was of paramount importance to middle-class households anxious to impress. "Economy and frugality must never, however, be allowed to degenerate into parsimony and meanness", she said as a hasty afterthought to her introductory observations on economy. Her principle was that everything should be the best of its kind: if stale crusts were what was required, well and good; and if she specified stale ones, it was because she served that particular purpose better than fresh ones; but it would have been parsimonious to use second-best steak for a beef-steak pie, or beggar's pie, or a quarter pint of brandy and six eggs needed for "An Unrivalled Plum Pudding". From experiments made with a number of her recipes it would seem that the usual size of eggs was very small. It is for such recipes as these, and her guest menus, which will be discussed presently, that she has gained a very misleading reputation for extravagance.

Few cookery books maintained an even gastronomic standard throughout, and even *Household Management*, within the strict limitations Isabella set herself, varied from chapter to chapter. The soup, fish and sauce chapters were among the best and most comprehensive in the book, and indeed for the plainer types of dishes have probably never been beaten. There were nearly 100 soups,

diners parties, mercilessly leaving the gentlemen without their natural partner to their port. The chapter on drinks contained everything that could be made at home, from a version of instant coffee to punch—but neither here nor elsewhere was there so much as a sentence about wine, which Isabella, who was as ignorant as any woman on the subject, did not consider a lady's concern. This was a pity, for she had broken through the traditional, illogical, and gastronomically undesirable separation of food from drink; it might not have possessed rigidly. The invalid food was distinguished chiefly for the sensible comments, which preceded it:

*For invalids never make a large quantity of one thing, as they seldom require much at a time; and it is desirable that variety be provided for them. Always have something in readiness: a little beef tea, nicely made and nicely skinned, a few spoonsful of jelly, etc., etc., that it may be administered as soon almost as the invalid wishes for it. If obliged to wait a long time, the patient loses the desire to eat, and often turns against the food when brought to him or her.*

*In sending dishes or preparations up to invalids, let everything look as tempting as possible.*

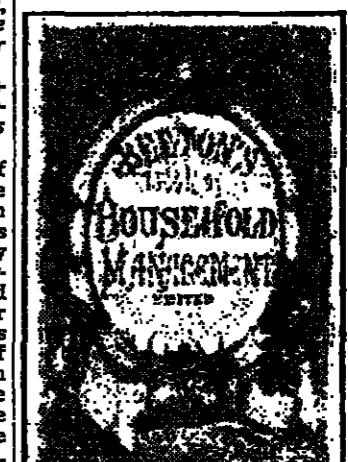
By far the most fascinating of all the recipe chapters was the last, "Bills of Fare", which gave menus for all occasions throughout the year. For every month there was one dinner-party menu for 18, 12, 10 and eight guests, and two or four menus for six people. There was also a fortnight's worth of family dinners—presumably on the assumption that for the second half of the month the mistress could begin serving the same dishes again. In addition, there were two menus for bull suppers, the larger being the one also recommended for fiddlings; one for a game dinner another for a picnic; and suggestions for the other meals of the day.

The dinner-party menus are astounding in the enormous amount of food considered necessary. Modern cooks would be disgusted; Isabella herself was dismissed by the Admiralty. The fare for 18 in May, to take a random example, was as follows. First course: asparagus soup, oxtail soup, salmon with lobster sauce, beef with shrimp sauce, fried sole, and fillets of mackerel. Entrees (light, usually elaborate dishes served as appetizers to the second course): lamb cutlets with cucumber, ragout of veal, curried chicken, and lobster pudding. Second course: saddle of lamb, raised pie, braised ham, roast veal, roast chicken, and boiled capon; (no vegetables were specified on this particular menu). Third course: goslings, ducklings, lobster salad, plowmen's eggs (as delicacies), game and fowl were served as part of the pudding course). Coffee puddings, Nesselrode pudding, chocolate cake, turnips, lemon cream, Charlotte à la Parisienne, and two sorts of Jellies. Dessert: fruit, pastries, biscuits, ices, and various sorts of confectionery, including chocolates, which were still very much a luxury. The dessert was the first for the maximum display of megafuscence, when all the choicer silver, china and glass were brought out; fruit was arranged in huge steamed dishes called tazze, which were often fantastically decorated with flowers, cherubs, nymphs and scenes from classical mythology—the ones illustrated in the book, which were probably Isabella's own, were relatively plain. The dinner for that month consisted of disproportionately fewer dishes, but was still excessive: two soups plus salmon and turbot; seven meat dishes; ducklings, goslings, and seven puddings, seven desserts, and before dessert, before dessert.

However, gourmets as these feasts may now seem, to contemporaries they were if anything more moderate than might have been expected, for a large and sumptuous array of dishes at dinner parties was the invariable custom. Isabella, as can be imagined from her aversion to waste and extravagance, as it appears in her article in *The Times*, was notorious for her impatience with the tedium such elaboration entailed, was placed in an embarrassing position: she could not afford to challenge the convention, but was hard pressed to rationalize her support of it. She compromised by recommending when she considered the socially acceptable minimum of food, and said, without much conviction:

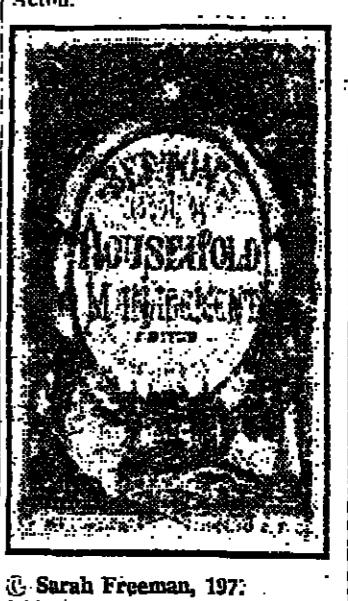
*The variety of dishes which furnish forth a modern dinner-table does not necessarily imply anything unwholesome, or anything capricious. Food that is not well relished cannot be well digested; and the appetite of the over-worked man of business, or statesman, or of any dweller in towns, whose occupation is exciting and exhausting, is jaded, and requires stimulation.*

After all this, the family dinners came as something of a shock. They were economic, unpretentious, nor particularly copious, and consisted of the same type and number of dishes as we would eat today, except for the rather more generous servings of meat. Sometimes, but not always, they began with fish or soup, followed by one or two meat dishes, potatoes, and nearly every day in winter and three or four times a week in summer. The Sunday roast was invariable (but there would not be more than one), and its reappearance on Monday or Tuesday, either cold with mashed potatoes or as a "Cold Meat Cookery" dish, equally inevitable; for the most interesting thing about these menus was the mathematical exactitude with which Isabella manipulated them so as to avoid waste.



The liquor from boiled meat always became soup, and even half-eaten puddings were reduced cut into slices and fried. The variety of meat meals were not unattractive, though they were very fattening; every now and again, however, her urge for economy became distinctly depressing, as in these two meals for January and April respectively: pea soup made from the previous day's boiled beef, cold beef and mashed potatoes (in salad), and butter pudding; and vegetable soup, tarragon and rhubarb custard.

From a journalistic point of view, it is virtually impossible to find fault with this part of the book. Isabella's realistic assessment of the average cook's ability, her accent on the most prized Victorian virtues—economy, the precision of her directions, and above all her innovative system of writing recipes—come near to genius. It is for cookery that she is remembered and because of it that *Household Management* became famous. But although her work has been so influential, it must be remembered that this distinction was purely "unrealistic", nor gastronomic. If her recipes seemed better than anyone else's, it was because they were easier to follow, and therefore stood a better chance of yielding good results. The only way to begin the excellence of her work is to see what she did: it was incalculable, for in effect she founded an independent school of middle-class British cookery, and in so doing improved enormously the general standard of cooking in this country. It was something no chef imbued with the principles of French *haute cuisine* could ever have done, and without Kitchener, one would have said that no man—as opposed to woman—could have achieved. But Isabella did not invent it: the person who deserves the most credit for that is Miss Acton.



© Sarah Freeman, 1977.  
This extract is taken from *Isabella and Sam* by Sarah Freeman which has just been published this week by Victor Gollancz at £6.50.



## Julian Mitchell: a 'first' play

*Half-Life* is, as archaeologists and scientists and previous few others will know, a term which derives from the radiocarbon revolution whereby the dating of such historic monuments as Stonehenge has been drastically revised. A dictionary will tell you that in essence it is the period of time in which a radioactive substance falls to half its original value, and the National Theatre programme for November will tell you that it is also the title of Julian Mitchell's new play which opens at the Cottesloe next Thursday with a starry cast headed by Sir John Gielgud, Paul Rogers, Isabel Deas, Hugh Padfield and Richard Pearson.

Mr Mitchell is now 42 and this is his first play, or rather the first play which can totally be considered his; he has, of course, done highly successful West End adaptations of two Ivy Compton-Burnett novels (*A Heritage and Its History* and *A Family and a Fortune*) as well as a considerable amount of television scripting including the whole of the *Jessie, Lady Randolph Churchill* sequence of plays for ITV. *His Half-Life* is a story of an archaeologist played by Gielgud, who finds that a lifelong belief in the diffusionist theory of civilization has been totally destroyed by the new techniques of dating.

The whole idea of archaeologists uncovering things including, perhaps, themselves is an intriguing one for a playwright, and I've always liked delving back into the past though I'm determined not to be known as another adapter for the rest of my life."

The middle son of a solicitor (the elder brother is in the National Trust) and the younger is the Mitchell whose Beazley publishing house) Julian Mitchell was at Wadham College, Oxford, in the late 1950s generation of David Cawte and Alan Coren: "I never thought," said their Warden Sir Maurice Bowra, somewhat facetiously, that my colleagues would become such a mix of singing birds." Till the other two Mitchell got a First (in History) which in those days meant a Commonwealth Fellowship and a passport to the world:

"I was allegedly researching Political Verse Under James I knew.



and all the manuscripts seemed to have found their way to America so I had two happy years there. And I was amazingly... I mind-erasingly... I approached the Cottesloe Board and she let me do the adaptations, after which I began to make my living in television where you really do get an audience. Not that the living there is a very secure one, unless you work purely as a screenwriter; last summer I wrote a play simply because they'd asked for it, and the day after the BBC won the international Critics Award, at Monte Carlo, with my adaptation of *Abide With Me*, I went to see the new play back the next day. The answer is that you simply can't afford to put pen to paper unless you know it's something they're going to want."

Even *Half-Life* got turned down by the West End management, and I think it's only getting on at the National because Sir John happens to do.

Like it very much. Really I suppose it's a Lyrician rather than a Cottesloe play, but if it's good enough it'll work in any genre and we can always transfer it later if all goes well. I still somehow yearn for a certain even though I know that's against all the Peter Brook open-space rules."

By age and background Mitchell belongs to that loose-knit Gray-Grey-Bennett generation of Oxbridge playwrights, and indeed he and Alan Bennett were both briefly graduate research students in the Public Record Office working on papyri, immensely long parchments on vellum which could break your arm if you unrolled them too quickly. Since then the two men have not however been in close touch, and Mitchell firmly objects to the fact that he seems to be going to recognizable groups.

"My literary background was all Ashwood and Anden and Speiser and I sort of believed that one day I'd belong some coteries or a gang of some kind. It doesn't seem to have happened; I don't belong to the Ian Hislop poetry lot, nor do I belong to all the young playwrights who worked with David Hare and the Portable Theatre, and I long for the sense of community which playwrights must have had, say, Decline's Royal Court."

I was writing novels in the 1960s instead of going out on buses with an Arts Council grant, and that's made me a loner. I get hysterically bored at writers' union meetings, where the only thing you're writing is a film script when you know you're not doing it for the money. But I love the community you get at a play school, especially because I grew up in the theatre so deeply. I once played Daniel Mason's mistress, you know, in a school drama about the French Revolution and then I was Ann Hatchaway, but at Oxford I developed terrible stagefright. Perhaps I should have tried to overcome it but I never did.

Whenever you do, though, as long as you remain freelance you're in the lap of the gods. I once made good money, out of *Jesus*, but that's all disappeared now and I live from play to play; still, I'm not complaining, it's what I've really always wanted to do."

Shendean Morley

Political Verse Under James I knew.

Photograph by Donald Cooper



Oliver Maguire, Brenda Fricker, Timothy Block and Tamara Hindchic

## In the guise of social relevance

### Lavender Blue Cottesloe

#### Ned Chaillet

Coldly, but no so coldly as John Mackendrick writes, I will describe the conclusion of his play. It is night-time. Peter, a young man clad only in the dress of the nine-year-old girl he has recently murdered, steps out into the street bearing the child's corpse in his arms. The girl's mother, walking the streets, prostitutes spots the strange sight and walks over to see what is happening. She screams. Her screams bring Roy, a social worker, out of his office where he has been working late. The same screams distract

Claire, Roy's subordinate who happens to be in charge of the cases of Peter, the mother and the child. Claire has been enjoying sexual intercourse with Alau, a journalist, in her flat near by. She has just finished telling Alau that she has decided to accept Roy's offer of marriage, since she is aging and it is her last chance. They met in the street, disperse and then the play is ended.

Barker, Sebastian Graham-Jones, the director, has staged a scene in which the child companionably masturbates Peter. She is rewarded for her friendliness with strangulation. Peter then crawls around his corner of the stage naked, masturbating himself and singing twisted snatches of nursery rhymes, hence *Lavender Blue*.

Elsewhere, the girl's father, played by Oliver Maguire, is

busy assuring social workers and his wife, while a demented couple look on.

Presumably the actors are consenting adults and have accepted their parts without compunction by the National Theatre. But what is the point of saying it? Derek Thompson says it as Peter, when all he is able to portray is crippled madness?

However deep Susan Fleetwood is able to enrich Claire with an unscripted flirtatiousness she cannot make the stuns into a human being. What does it matter that Louisa Livingstone looks and acts like a sexually precocious child when all her living moments on the stage produce nothing but a sexual toy?

Perhaps Mr Mackendrick, a social worker himself, became a resident writer at the

National, felt that reality was not being served without child molestation and the running of *Lavender Blue* before being demonstrated on the stage. Whether his reasons for being explicit about child sex, he is unexpectedly coy about such dramatic points as where the action takes place, making only vague references to an unnamed city, which, from the accents, could be anywhere between Belfast, Mr Mackendrick's own Yorkshire, and Brighton.

He suggests that thoughts

of chemotherapy had added Peter to the point of his crime, but why he feels the act needs to be vividly repeated night after night in a theatre is never explained. The explanation is his justification that it is a lurid, offensive and humourless indegence cloaked in the guise of social relevance.

Itself, clearly defining every strand within a massive volume of sound:

The orchestral return was a moment to remember too. Everyone played brilliantly in the most perpetuo-type Scherzo which seemed as if discharged in a single breath. The Intermezzo, done with rhythmic piquancy and much droll charm by all, found Mr Gutierrez at his best winning in subtleties of colour and texture. It was good to hear such gleaming clarity without a trace of the percussive clutter often accorded that composer.

The gawky leaping theme at the start of the finale was brilliant and the Russian folk music in the course of the movement was tenderly rocked by conductor and soloist alike. They were on the same wavelength throughout the work.

For the rest, we had Berlioz's "Roman Carnival" as a stirrer, and after the intermission Sibelius's second symphony. However often you may have heard it that triumphant swing into D major near the end always sends you home feeling that life is more worth living. It was very telling on Thursday because of Mr Previn's artful reserve earlier in the movement. In general, however, he preferred bold strokes of colour and succulent lyricism to northier reserve.

It was a keenly characterized, stylish interpretation, catching the work's iconic chasm and fairytale fantasy as well as its breadth and drive. Prokofiev led him, on his own admission, to strive for greater depth of content in its successor in G minor. The second concerto is also much more difficult, not least that tremendous cadenza in the course of the opening movement. Predictably, however, Horacio Gutierrez made his play of all technical hazards in his performance with Andre Previn and the LSO on Thursday, doing so without drawing attention to virtuosity per se.

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It remains only to reiterate praise for Colin Graham's very Japanese production and John Fraser's elegant sets. If only the conductor had the same sensitivity...

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two sides to *Butterfly*: the naive juvenile and the distressed woman who touches extremes of passion unknown to any 15-year-old. Miss Haywood's attempts at girlish behaviour in the first act were not a success, but as she and Puccini, forgot that Cio-Cio San is supposed to be an adolescent, so her performance gained fullness of tone and an extraordinary capacity to move.

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## ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Today 12 Nov. 8 p.m. SCOTLAND '77 on stage and wide-screen. The hunting beauty of the Scottish scene on the screen with, on stage, a night to Scotland Country Dancers, Scottish Dance and Cloggers, Highland Dancers, Scottish Pipe Band, and the Royal Edinburgh Pipe Band. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-580 2100.

Sunday 13 Nov. 7.30 p.m. LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Andre Previn (conductor) Claudio Achel Concerto; Pfeiffer Piano Concerto No. 3 in G minor; Brahms Concerto No. 2 in D, Op. 45. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-580 2100.

Monday 14 Nov. 8 p.m. PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos (conductor) Louis Spohr's symphony No. 1 (sonata); José van Dam (bass). £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-580 2100.

Tuesday 15 Nov. 8.30 p.m. LONDON MOZART PLAYERS John Neschling (conductor) Miss Millicent Glane: Damp-Sat King (vocal); Royal Overture; The Italian Girl in Algiers; Haydn Piano Concerto No. 22 in E flat, K. 451; Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-580 2100.

Wednesday 16 Nov. 8 p.m. CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Louis Prusman (conductor) Brahms' Double Concerto; Schubert's Trout Fantasy; Brahms' Rondo Capriccioso; Wm. Walton's Orchestra Suite; Elgar's Dreamtale Suite No. 2; Elgar's The Dapto.

Friday 18 Nov. 8 p.m. RSPB COLOUR FILMS A Treasury of British Nature. £1.50, £1.20, £1.00, 50p Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Saturday 19 Nov. 8 p.m. VIENNA BOYS CHOIR Franz Xaver Panzer (cond.) Sacred & Secular Choral Works. £1.50, £1.20, £1.00, 50p Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Sunday 20 Nov. 3.15 p.m. LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, Choir, Wandsworth School Choral Union, Sinfonia (choir), London Chamber Orchestra, M. Horwitz (conductor) Anne-Marie Piano Concerto No. 2 in G major; G. B. Casals' Burmese Suite; Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 in D flat, Op. 82. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-580 2100.

Monday 21 Nov. 8 p.m. PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA, Lorin Maazel (conductor) Schubert's Overture; Rossini's La Cenerentola; L. van Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15 (1st mvt); Mendelssohn's Ein Heidegger's Requiem. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-580 2100.

Tuesday 22 Nov. 8 p.m. CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Lorin Maazel (conductor) Kyung Wha Chung (violin). Works by Berlioz, Martini, etc. In aid Musicians Benevolent Fund, etc.

Wednesday 23 Nov. 8 p.m. ROYAL MASSEY OPERA REPERTORY Green Recital. Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto in F minor; William Tell Introduction; Pavane and Fugue in E flat minor; Schubert's Ave Maria; Brahms' Double Concerto. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-580 2100.

Thursday 24 Nov. 8 p.m. BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BBC Singers. Pierre Boulez (conductor) Debussy's Preludes; Haydn's Piano Concerto No. 22 (1st mvt); Haydn's Le Soir (des saisons); revised version); Haydn's Trumpet and Timpani Concerto; Tchaikovsky's Ballet, The Firebird. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-580 2100.

Friday 25 Nov. 8 p.m. PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA, Lorin Maazel (conductor) Haydn's Overture; Operetta; Schubert's Die Zauberflöte. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-580 2100.

Saturday 26 Nov. 8 p.m. PAUL TORTAGLIO (cello), Mario De La Rosa (piano). Programme includes: Brahms' Sonata in E minor, Op. 36; Paganini Variations on one theme by Rossini; Ibsen and Tito.

## QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Today 12 Nov. 7.45 p.m. NATIONAL WESTMINSTER CHORUS Sinfonia Pro Musica, Ian McAllister (conductor) Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto, etc. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000. National Westminster Choir.

Sunday 13 Nov. 7.45 p.m. SHURA CHIKHANSKY Piano. Mendelssohn's Variations ecclésiastiques. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Monday 14 Nov. 7.45 p.m. THE FLAMENCO SOUL OF JUAN MARTIN The Spanish Soul. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Tuesday 15 Nov. 7.45 p.m. ALL-ENGLAND CHAMBER MUSIC GROUP, Haydn's Quartet in G minor, Op. 20 No. 3; Mendes Quartet in F major; Haydn's Quintet in G minor; Brahms' Quintet in E minor. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Wednesday 16 Nov. 7.45 p.m. LONDON SINFONIETTA Brian Ferneyhough (conductor) Sinfonietta No. 1 (1st mvt); Brian Ferneyhough's performance of Brian Ferneyhough's Sinfonietta No. 1. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Thursday 17 Nov. 7.45 p.m. BRITISH NYE PIANO RECITAL, F. P. Op. 34; Mendelssohn's Sonata in B flat, Op. 10; Liszt's Adagio de Pâle; Brahms' Andante. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Friday 18 Nov. 7.45 p.m. LONDON MOZART PLAYERS Thoma Vidovszky (conductor/violin) Haydn's Symphony No. 80 in D minor; Mozart Piano Concerto No. 17 in E flat, K. 453; Haydn's Double Concerto in D minor. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Saturday 19 Nov. 7.45 p.m. TILFORD BACH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA David Darwen (conductor) Soloists: Dr. Walter J. Partington, Mr. Coventry-Crane, Mr. Macmillan. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Sunday 20 Nov. 7.45 p.m. AMARCORD QUARTET with CELIA ANDREWES (soprano) and MICHAEL C. K. 465. (Discordia): String Quartet in G minor, B. 162; Haydn's Divertimento; Haydn's String Quartet in E minor. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Tuesday 22 Nov. 7.45 p.m. SMALL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, Jose-Luis Garcia (cello) Lynne Warrell (cello); Handel Concerto Grosso Op. 12/2; Mendelssohn's String Quartet in B major; Haydn's Divertimento. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Wednesday 23 Nov. 7.45 p.m. MONTPELLIER TRIO Haydn's Trio No. 1 G. (Crescendo); Beethoven's Trio in E flat, Op. 12/1; Brahms' Trio in E flat, Op. 101; Rihm and Tihell.

Thursday 24 Nov. 7.45 p.m. EUGENE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Salvatore Acciari (conductor) Haydn's Divertimento; Brahms' Concerto No. 1; Paganini's Variations on a Theme in Venetian; Vivaldi's Concerto in A; Vivaldi's Concerto in D major. £2.50, £2 (all others). Tel: 01-5722 6000.

Friday 25 Nov. 7.45 p.m. PURCELL ROOM HAROLD BOLT LIMITED announce

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Extracts from Tristan und Isolde and Götz von Berlichingen

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20 November 7.30 WEMBLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE

21 November 8 p.m. ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

22 November 8 p.m. VICTORIA HALL, HANLEY

23 November 7.30 ALBERT HALL, NOTTINGHAM

24 November 8 p.m. CITY HALL, NEWCASTLE ON TYNE

25 November 7.30 LEEDS TOWN HALL

27 November 7.30 HALIFAX CIVIC THEATRE

29 November 8 p.m. ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY HALL

30 November 7.30 GUILDFORD, PORTSMOUTH

1 December 7.30 FREE TRADE HALL, MANCHESTER

2 December 8 p.m. CORN EXCHANGE, BEDFORD

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SCHUTZ & LASSUS HAROLD LESTER piano

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## Travel

## Holidays on a sliding scale

Val d'Isère:  
top of the  
mountains

Last year's winter sports brochures were depressingly alike in the bumper editions of previous years. Most tour companies seemed to be offering ever more expensive resorts with longer holidays in Spanish and other places skiers had never heard of, appearing for the first time, and established favourites in France and Switzerland dropped.

The tour companies' logic is that Britain's economic ices are the bottom out of their market, and all those people who could afford to ski would be seeking less expensive resorts.

So let me tell you why there was no discussion in my family about where we are going this year.

Kitzbühel:  
the world's  
ski school

Kitzbühel is one of the oldest resorts for the relatively new sport of skiing. It was in 1890 that one of its citizens heard of the new sport of running on skis which had begun in Norway. Skis were ordered, and town never looked back. By the early 1900s ski training courses were being held and the Austrian army had a ski teacher in the town.

For many years afterwards Kitzbühel was the haunt of the rich and famous, along with other leading resorts like Gstaad and St Moritz. All this changed after the 1939-45 War and Kitzbühel set out, as did so many resorts, to catch the growing mass market.

Today the town is well supplied with all the necessities for skiing. Its cable railways and ski lifts take skiers to the best slopes. But what is most interesting today about Kitzbühel is that it has become one

of the most popular ski areas in the Alps in their customer numbers.

Now this season's brochures are as thick and numerous as formerly. All the great names are back in the books and even more new resorts have been added. For really expert skiers—the type who do their snake-hopped thing down the steepest runs with knees and ankles locked, stylishly—choosing a resort is easy. They simply go for a place with the most difficult and challenging runs they can afford.

For the rest of us, from beginners to people who can ski parallel for some of the time on our better days, the brochures can be pretty baffling.

So let me tell you why there was no discussion in my family about where we are going this year.

vast ski school. There is no objection to anyone skiing outside the classes, but during the time I was there, I never saw anyone doing so.

The classes range from absolute beginners—for either adults or children—to a class which is not really a class at all, but is designed so that experienced and highly skilled skiers can tackle the most difficult slopes in a small group with the most experienced guide rather than teacher.

Whether you like to ski alone or in a group, certainly anyone who takes a holiday alone will soon find friends in the class. Once joining a class there is no need to worry about being stuck in it. As soon as you reach the top of the class or outskirt, another, rather more difficult class is available. It all runs like clockwork. Clockwork may not appeal to everyone, but it is an easy way to learn to ski, or to ski at your own level.

Kitzbühel has two main skiing areas, the Hahnenkamm and the Kitzbühel Horn. The former has 11 ski runs, and skiers are advised of the relative difficulty or otherwise of each run before they start. In the Horn area

there are three runs from the middle station of the cable railway to the valley, two from the top of the horn to Kitzbühel, and another two from the top of the horn to St. Johann. In addition there are three runs from the chair lift.

These are just the main runs; altogether Kitzbühel has 50 recognized runs. For those who want to show off there is the Golden Ski Book, which is given to anyone who scores 20 out of 29 suggested runs. Those who later manage 30 get a silver star, and anyone reaching the magic 50 receives a gold star.

All this emphasis on lessons and prizes is like school to me, but there is no doubt that for many the company of other people at the same level of skill is enjoyable.

Lufthansa were my hosts in Kitzbühel and they have several kinds of package tours on offer to the district (and to other parts of the Tirol as well). Bed and breakfast in private houses where the accommodation is very comfortable costs £107 for seven nights and £120 for 10. Half board in the Jägerwirt hotel or a similar one costs £179 for seven nights and £224 for 10. Information from Lufthansa's Department 10 Old Bond Street, London W1.

Margaret Allen

Collecting  
The Highland gathering

Donald Wintersgill is the much respected antiquarian and salaried correspondent of *The Guardian*. He is a foraging journalist who produces frequent scoops, but he also has a wide knowledge of antiques and an impressive paintings collection of his own. I am not sure his talents are fully appreciated at *The Guardian*, as he works behind a door labelled "Syndication"—which means that most of his time is spent in selling other people's articles rather than writing his own.

Wintersgill is a Scot, born in Glasgow, educated at Kelvin-side Academy and Glasgow University, and his second book, just published, is on Scottish Antiques (Johns of Burn, £7.25). These have been sold on individual Scottish antiques—coins, scientific instruments, Hill and Adamson photographs—but no general conspectus of Scottish bygones. One advantage of such a study is that it enables us to decide whether there is any distinctively Scottish trait which runs through all the antiques.

The most obvious common denominator is a certain practicality and slumming of fancy work. (As Mr Wintersgill writes: "Scotland did not care very much to the fripperies of the rococo style nor the artificiality of chinoiserie," a craze which he fought upon her stamps.)

Both Scots and Japanese have shown an exquisite artistic refinement, represented by Hokusai and Utamaro in Japan, and by Rennie Mackintosh in Scotland. The more one thinks about it, the more the parallels multiply. The foolishness about swords and "sword furniture", and the marvellous craftsmanship lavished on them in both countries; the fuss made about the New Year; the fanatic clannishness denoted by tartans and monograms; the devotion to a prince/emperor after he has been catastrophically defeated.

Even the sporran has its Japanese equivalent in the *tsuru*, the pouch or set of lacquered boxes that dangles from the sash. It begins to seem significant that rebus houses—a main vehicle for the Japanese-influenced Art Nouveau style—or that a book on Hill and Adamson's photographs was titled *Sun Pictures*.

The two countries have more in common: something of an inferiority complex about their folk art was—was adored or abandoned as Scots looked south.

John Hume, who was captured by the Highlanders at the Battle of Falkirk (1746), wrote in his *History of the Rebellion in the year 1745* that the Highlanders always appeared like warriours; as if their arms had been limbs, but by the early nineteenth century, the dirk had become a mere "adjunct" to the Highland

dominant race neighbours—England and China. In both cases this feeling has led to a kind of back-to-the-roots from the tradition of the dominant culture. "Forgive me, but I prefer my past round," was the sardonic retort of Mr Roger Baines, the dealer in Chinese ceramics, when shown one of those warped, eccentrically shaped Japanese wabi-sabi: but the warping was deliberate, just as the Japanese break with the time-honoured mechanism of Chinese painting was.

The "large" (targe, or shield) of the Highlander suffered similar debasement. At the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689, a Scot put his targe to such good use that his English opponent believed: "You Dog, come out from behind the Door, and Beg like a man!"

In 1733 James Boswell recorded: "There is hardly a targe now to be found in the Highlands. After the disarming Act they made them serve as covers to their buttermilk barrels, a kind of 'chopping like beating' speaks into pruning hooks." And Mr Wintersgill wryly adds: "Rebels and revolutionaries are now made to ornament the walls of cocktail lounges."

Plants were also identified. Mr Chalmers' *Atlas of the Victoria and Albert Museum* has written of examples "grossly over-decorated" with cairngorms, thistles, stags, and all the worse features of what can only be described as Victorian Scottish rococo.

The Scots were less uncompromising than the Japanese in their resistance to influence from the dominant culture. As in the "coca-colonisation" of the United States by America, in which United States movies replace traditional dance forms as entertainment, the folk art of Scotland—and most of the antiques in this book qualify—now make to ornament the walls of cocktail lounges.

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dress. Mr Wintersgill gives as an example of the "stupifying" effect of this feeling but led to a kind of back-to-the-roots from the tradition of the dominant culture.

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## Why the Russians saw red over the Venice Biennale

While diplomats at the Belgrade follow-up conference are crossing the t's and dotting the i's of the Three Presidents of the Helsinki accords, most of the prominent dissidents—novelists, writers, painters, scientists, musicians and film producers of the Soviet Union and the rest of Eastern Europe are planning to descend on the Venice Biennale, Italy's principal cultural festival, which opens on November 15. This year's festival, lasting more than a month, is dedicated to "cultural and political dissent" in the communist world" and among the participants in seminars, discussion groups and a variety of dialogues will be well-known Western Sovietologists and specialists in East European affairs.

When the theme of the festival became known early in the year, *Izvestia* not unexpectedly published a violent attack on the president of the Biennale, Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana, and specifically accused him of preparing a "circus stage for vilifying socialist countries". Several weeks later Mr Nikolai Rykov, Soviet Ambassador to Rome, entered the scene and asked the Italian Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Ministry for Entertainment (Italy perhaps being the only country with such a ministry, which controls the budget for the Biennale) to cancel the programme. "We consider the emphasis on dissent a provocation," the ambassador declared. He added almost menacingly, "do we not, in invading Italy, remain on friendly terms? Why injure them?"

While these highly unusual visits made no immediate news, they became several days later an important incident in Italian politics, an unwanted and difficult challenge for the Italian Communist Party—the arch protagonists of Eurocommunism—and a peculiarly embarrassing one for the ruling Christian Democratic Party, which survives only because the Communists have agreed to abstain in Parliament. All this happened because the president of the Biennale decided to resign, and when he did so resigned in a letter to the Turin paper *L'Espresso* the story of Ambassador Rykov's threats through the Roman ministries. There was, he felt, no other way to call attention to the pressures against the Biennale on dissent.

In fact, devoting the 1977 Biennale programme to Soviet and Eastern European dissent was Signor Ripa di Meana's own idea, and he was in no mood to become "responsible" as seen through the eyes of the Foreign Ministry. Two years ago he had presided over the 1975 Biennale which had been officially dedicated to protesting the repression in Chile. Muralists by edited Chilean artists appeared all over Venice. Radio folk-singing groups which had escaped from Chile gave concerts. One could see films made during the Allende days, listen to clandestine tapes smuggled out by French leftists, and hear denunciation of the United States for its alleged support of Pinochet.

Early in 1977, it occurred to Signor Ripa di Meana that repression in Russia and Eastern Europe would be no less an appropriate theme for the Biennale. Moreover, President Carter's remarks on human rights, as he said later on, added another reason for his decision to propose this theme to the governing board of the Biennale. None of the members objected or raised questions, the Committee representative included.

**Joseph Godson**  
The author, who lives in London, is European Coordinator of the Center for Strategic and International Studies of Georgetown University.



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## An airman's last letter to his mother

(ANSA) on March 5 that "we see nothing good in this act of provocation against the Soviet Union. No, we never spoke on behalf of other countries. But we have reason to believe they (the Warsaw Pact countries) would feel as offended as we are, and they would certainly be compelled to withdraw from any Biennale event along with all truly democratic countries."

It was therefore understandable when on March 7 *L'Espresso* published an editorial challenging Signor Berlinguer's Communist Party to prove once and for all its independence from Moscow. Moreover, its editor, Signor Arrigo Letta, suggested Mr Rykov should apologize for his intervention in internal affairs or go. The Italian Government encouraged remained silent. The Prime Minister, Signor Andreotti, knows that any offence to the party of Signor Berlinguer is likely to bring down his own feeble regime, and throw Italy into even greater chaos. The Communists, on the other hand, had, in the words of Signor Ripa di Meana, proposed programming slanting of events on dissent from taking place.

Signor Ripa di Meana, the Communist art historian who is also the mayor of Rome, said that he could see no point in having a "Solemnity parade" at the Biennale. The Communist and left-wing press was filled with similar derogatory comments, conveniently forgetting that they had been wildly enthusiastic two years before when the Biennale was deemed a "fascist grille".

Yet one might have expected some small show of independence on the part of Signor Berlinguer himself, whose righteous indignation at speeches by Dr Henry Kissinger last year—ostensibly because they constituted foreign interference in internal Italian affairs—knew no bounds.

After all the to and fro it was hard to avoid the impression that the Communists have agreed to abstain in Parliament. All this happened because the president of the Biennale decided to resign, and when he did so resigned in a letter to the *Turin* paper *L'Espresso* the story of Ambassador Rykov's threats through the Roman ministries. There was, he felt, no other way to call attention to the pressures against the Biennale on dissent.

In fact, devoting the 1977 Biennale programme to Soviet and Eastern European dissent was Signor Ripa di Meana's own idea, and he was in no mood to become "responsible" as seen through the eyes of the Foreign Ministry. Two years ago he had presided over the 1975 Biennale which had been officially dedicated to protesting the repression in Chile.

Muralists by edited Chilean artists appeared all over Venice. Radio folk-singing groups which had escaped from Chile gave concerts. One could see films made during the Allende days, listen to clandestine tapes smuggled out by French leftists, and hear denunciation of the United States for its alleged support of Pinochet.

Early in 1977, it occurred to Signor Ripa di Meana that repression in Russia and Eastern Europe would be no less an appropriate theme for the Biennale. Moreover, President Carter's remarks on human rights, as he said later on, added another reason for his decision to propose this theme to the governing board of the Biennale. None of the members objected or raised questions, the Committee representative included.

The intervention of the Soviet ambassador changed all that, however. Indeed, Ambassador Rykov unashamedly admitted as much when he told the Italian News Service

my role in this war has been of the greatest importance. Our people out over the North Sea have helped to keep the trade routes clear for our country... I shall have done my duty to the honour of my ability. No man can do more, and no one calling himself a man can do less.

I have always admired you; amazing courage in the face of continual setbacks; in the way you have given me as good an education and background as anyone in the country, and always kept up appearance without losing faith in the future.

My death would not mean that your struggle has been in vain. Far from it. It means that your sacrifice is as great as mine. Those who serve England must expect nothing from her...

His reply resounds with illustrious names who have given all, yet their sacrifice has resulted in the British Empire, where there is a measure of peace, justice and freedom for all, and where a higher standard of civilization

has evolved, and is still evolving, than anywhere else.

But this is not only concerning our own land. Today we are faced with the greatest organized challenge to Christianity and civilization that the world has ever seen, and I count myself lucky to be in the right age and fully trained to serve my full weight in the scale. For this I have to thank you.

Yet there is more work for you to do. The Home Front will still have to stand united for years after the war is won.

For all that can be said against it, I still maintain that the war is a very good thing: every individual is having the chance to give and dare all for his principle. Like the martyrs of old.

However long the time may be, one thing can never be altered—I shall have lived and died an Englishman. Nothing else matters one jot nor can anything ever change it.

You must not grieve for me, for if you really believe in religion and all that it entails that would be hypocrisy.

I have no fear of death, only a queer notion... I would have it no other way. The universe is so vast and so agreeable that the life of one man can only be justified by the measure of his sacrifice.

I firmly and absolutely believe that evil things are sent into the world to us; they are sent deliberately by our Creator to test our metal because He knows what is good for us...

I count myself fortunate in that I have seen the whole country and known men of every calling. But with the final test of war I consider my character fully developed.

This is my early life, my earthly mission is already fulfilled, and I am prepared with just one regret and one only—that I could not devote myself fully to making your declining years more happy by being with you: but I shall live in peace and freedom and I shall have directly contributed to that. So here again my life will not have been in vain.

Your loving son.

## An easy way to pick the Big Apple

If the man who is tired of London is tired of life, the man who has never savoured New York hasn't really lived. One of the good things which Mr Laker's skylift looks like achieving with his cut-rate flights between London and New York is to make the people of the two cities feel far closer.

Before this one could hardly conceive of hopping over to New York, as people do, say, to Paris. Yet the costs are now comparable, especially when one considers that living in New York—with its fast food, its sights and shows, and its cheap drinks—seems far better value than many European cities.

The Laker trip costs £59 out and £77 to come back. A flight to Paris (distance 215 miles) costs £72 return, and New York, that favourite resort of the English, is £167. Going farther south, a normal economy return to Rome is now up to £220.

The point about this cheap travel to New York, which seems to elude the previous director of the high-priced corporation Air Transport Association, is that we can at least have a good run for our money. On the Laker flight I recently took, more than half the passengers were young and very few of them, one supposes, could have afforded the normal economy return to New York, which is a staggering £340. (£293.50 for 21 days excursion.)

The assembled company made an extraordinary contrast with the grey business suits which fill the average European flight. Some had haversacks, some took sandwiches with them (though the meal served on board at £1.50 was fine), and some were regular businessmen saving the cost of what the industry quaintly terms an "economy" flight.

No need to wait at Gatwick all day, either. One can buy a ticket, first class in the morning and then take the train back for a day in London. Although the major airlines now offer "standby" bookings to New York, seats cannot be guaranteed, particularly at weekend.

The real attraction of the new fares lies in New York itself. At this crisp autumn season the city is crackling with life and energy. The galleries, the bars and diners, theatres off Broadway and off-off Broadway, the Christmas glitters in the stores, all seem so enticing. Even the pavements shake over the pulsing of the subway trains.

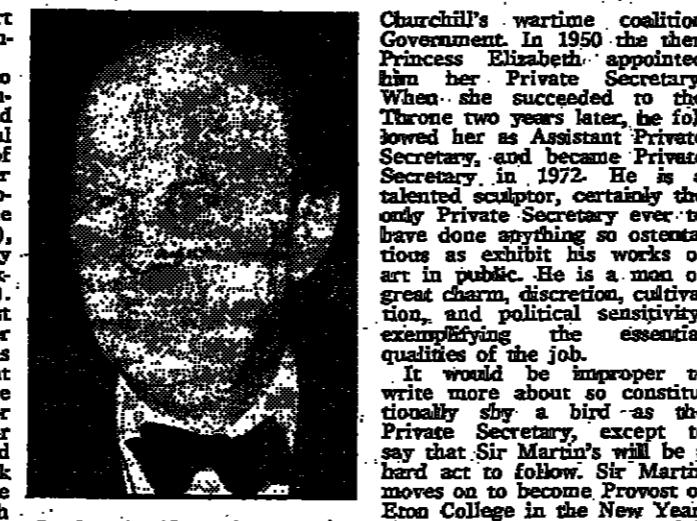
Not so life as expensive. On Saturday evening free concerto will roll out in Washington Square, while crowds of onlookers mill around. The other evening two fringe political groups, the "yippies" and the "mooches" were distributing broadsheets one side accusing the other of banding out free "grabs" as being, somehow or other, a CIA plot.

The city has its own chronicle, and a brilliant production it is. The pages of the weekly *New York magazine* have a slyness, informality and racy, worthy of the city they celebrate.

To *New York magazine*, I am indebted for the following interesting statistics: the last census, for 7,894,862 New Yorkers, of whom 4,969,369 were whites, 1,545,242 were blacks and 1,202,281 of Hispanic origin. Among the whites, 2,778,543 were foreign-born or had at least one foreign-born parent. Of the city's 24,241 families with incomes exceeding 50,000 dollars, 868 are black and 170 are Puerto Rican.

The numbers who are on or below the bread line are not given, and no one can fail to be aware that New York continually on the verge of bankruptcy, is a financial and political basket case. Riding in a taxi it is like a journey in a rather uncomfortable black maria. Instead of conversation with the driver, so beloved of racers, the passenger has to sit back behind a protective grille and pay his fare through a slot in the glass. But the British visitor, escaping from power cuts and the threat of miners' strikes, may perhaps be excused from worrying about New York's safety. And according to a British diplomat in a position to know, skyrail will probably do Britain more good with New Yorkers than Concorde has done with us.

Philip Howard



Sir Martin Charteris: engaging lack of modesty.

out the last war, coming out of it as a Lieutenant-Colonel. He married the daughter of Lord Margesson, former Conservative Chief Whip, and Secretary of State for War in 1975, and some of his close associates.

He was born in 1913, a grandson of the eleventh Earl of Wemyss. His father was killed in action when the young Martin was three. He was educated at Eton and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and served as an infantry officer through

Churchill's wartime coalition Government. In 1950 the then Prince of Edinburgh appointed him his Private Secretary. When she succeeded to the Throne two years later, he followed her as Assistant Private Secretary, and became Private Secretary in 1972. He is a talented sculptor, certainly the only Private Secretary ever to have done anything so ostentatious as exhibit his works of art in public. He is a man of great charm, discretion, cultivation, and political sensitivity, exemplifying the essential qualities of the job.

In it could be improper to write more about so constitutionally modest a bird as the Private Secretary, except to say that Sir Martin's will be a hard act to follow. Sir Martin moves on to become Provost of Eton College in the New Year, a post where he will be able to exercise his talent and delight in getting on with the young. He is succeeded by his deputy, Sir Philip Moore, formerly a high-flying civil servant, now a distinguished Oxford hockey blue, and county cricketer. The Private

Secretary, the inconspicuous pillar behind the Throne, is seldom noticed nor long remembered in the public prints. But he is an important piece of the continuity on which the official succession depends.

Sir Alan Lascelles, the splendid and evergreen former Private Secretary to three monarchs, defined the job nicely:

"It is not by any means a bad job, nor is it a sinecure. It is a matter of responsibility, and responsibility, is continually increasing. In my office at present we compare ourselves favourably with our relative opposite numbers in the Civil Service, as regards man-hours per day, as regards pay, and as regards leave. We serve, I may remind you, one of the very few men in this world who never gets a holiday at all and who, unlike the rest of us, can look forward to no period of retirement at the end of his service; for his service never ends."

Philip Howard

## Portrait of the artist in the light of experience

With rather more justification, if less impact, than the late President Kennedy, Peter Sedgley could claim: "Ich bin ein Berliner." Mr Sedgley is a British painter with a Goethe-like interest in colour and composition, and was walking fine lines, or perhaps several lines, of the Twenties to the present, as well as music, films, plays and art which are the prescribed list that is

the highlights of the Biennale. 10 seminars, including one on the historical roots of the dissident movement with Stephen Spender as chairman, and another on "Human Rights in the East and in the West" in cooperation with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies of Georgetown University in Washington. There will be a series of lectures on Soviet dissident literature and documentaries from the Twenties to the present, as well as music, films, plays and art which are the prescribed list that is

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## THE LINE HOLDS ON PAY

When the Government failed to get formal agreement from the trade unions movement to a Stage Three for its incomes policy, the dominant fear was that there would be an immediate wage explosion. We are now well into the last half of the calendar year without that fear having turned into a reality.

Given the depressed state of the economy and the continuing tightness of fiscal and monetary policy, a reasonable case can be made for the proposition that the fears were exaggerated. Be that as it may, the events of the past week have shown that the return towards freer collective bargaining is still subject to discipline.

The collapse of the power workers' unofficial action, the firm stand which the Government is continuing to take in the case of the firemen's wage claim and the settlement of the police pay claim within the guidelines are all indications that there is no intention of letting the public sector start the process of lawflogging wages. The astonishing result of the Opinion Research Centre's poll which indicated that 85 per cent of the public support the Government's strong line on wage restraint, shows that the policy is popular. As always the National Union of Mineworkers is the one rogue elephant though by rejecting an offer, including a productivity agree-

ment which many will be given for thinking fell outside the terms of the Government's guidelines, the miners have for the moment at least not broken the line.

If the firemen's strike call were at all effective, it seems inevitable that, whatever makeshift measures the Government may take with the Services and other resources, there would soon be major tragedy. In such circumstances it is by no means certain how public opinion would react. There might be increased pressure on the firemen to reach a settlement within the guidelines. On the other hand, since firemen in general enjoy a large degree of public admiration, the reaction might be against the Government. Certainly there would be strong pressure on both sides to reach a quick settlement. Power cuts may be a major inconvenience, but they can be endured. The direct threat to life involved in the withdrawal of the fire service is another matter.

The strong public support for holding the line on incomes is based mainly on the experience of the wage explosion of 1974-75. There is a livelier perception of the fact that unjustified wage and salary increases, which lead to accelerating inflation and increased unemployment, are self-defeating. Even the Government, however, must be surprised by the extent of the pay round a habit of wage restraint will have formed.

## NO CEASEFIRE IN SIGHT

Dr Owen's report to Parliament on the results so far of Lord Carver's mission was not encouraging. This will surprise nobody who studied reports of the reception accorded Lord Carver and General Chandy by the principals and parties to the settlement proposed in the White Paper. All the gaps between their respective positions which were known before Lord Carver left still gape as wide as ever. Some new difficulties seem to have arisen—among these are the Patriotic Front's rejection of the large administrative powers given Lord Carver in the transition period, and the apparent objection of President Kaunda to holding elections during that period under Lord Carver's and United Nations supervision.

The key requirement of the White Paper that during the transition a start be made in creating a Zimbabwe army out of elements from both the existing security forces and the guerrillas seems unfulfillable. Even Dr Owen admitted the difficulty. Neither the Smith regime nor the guerrilla leaders seem within miles of a compromise, each bidding for the entire security role—the whites in fear of their

**ANTIQUITIES ON THE MAP**

Of all the activities that the taxpayer is required to support, the Ordnance Survey is one of the few where he can console himself with the thought that his money is being spent on something first-class. Britain is probably the best surveyed and best mapped country in the world. The various series of OS maps are far more than mere aids to navigation: they record the marks that successive ages have left on the ground they inherited, and the way we mould, exploit, and abuse the raw material we stand on. The records of the OS are an indispensable tool for historians and archaeologists. But they are not commercial and never can be.

The giddy increases in the price of OS maps in recent years are one sign of constant pressure from above to take more account of profitability. The customers of the service are vigilant, personally convinced that it is not as good as it used to be, and keenly suspicious of any evidence of corner-cutting. As our letter columns have shown, they have reacted strongly to the news that the specialized archaeological survey section is to be

abolished and its staff redeployed on general surveying work. Instead the Survey will rely on local authority sources for news of discoveries, which are still being made in increasing numbers every year.

The manner and timing of the decision are clumsy. There was no consultation with the professional bodies most concerned. The Department of the Environment is about to undertake a study of the Survey's work as a whole, and there have inevitably been suggestions that the move has been made in a hurry to forestall it. After many years of work a major field programme to make a comprehensive archaeological record of the British Isles is only two years from completion. Assurances have been given that the programme will not be interrupted and that the Survey's great archive will be maintained, but there are still fears that the work will not be carried on at the same high standard. Without authoritative records, the historical value of sites is reduced, and buried evidence can be unknowingly obliterated by new roads or factories.

According to the Council for

British Archaeology, there has been a good deal of duplicated effort between national and local services. But unilateral withdrawal is a hazardous way of remedying that. Some countries employ excellent archaeological survey teams, but many have standards that are not so high. All have been under pressure to reduce spending on such services, and no national coordination exists. The assertion by the Director General of the Survey in his letter to *The Times* yesterday that "most county authorities ... have agreed to co-operate" (our italics) is not reassuring.

The saving from the redeployment of about 40 staff is said to be about £100,000 a year, or rather less than a hundredth of the total funding costs of the Survey. No doubt the Survey, like every other public enterprise, must bow to the need to economize. But its historical function adds relatively little to the cost of providing social services of more immediate social utility. It is a matter for concern that such a small saving should be thought to warrant so serious a threat to a most valuable aspect of its work.

## Wordsworth manuscript

From Lord Brooke of Cumnor and others

Sir. An important collection of hitherto unknown Wordsworth and Coleridge manuscripts was sold at Sotheby's in July for £38,500, and there is now the possibility of acquiring it for the nation. The review committee for the export of works of art has suspended the issue of an export licence for four months to enable a British institution to match the purchase price; and the purchaser, Cornell University, has stated that he would be willing to consider an offer from the Trustees of Dove Cottage, Grasmere. The undersigned seek the hospitality of your columns for an appeal on their behalf.

The Library and Museum at Grasmere house some 85 per cent of Wordsworth's extant manuscripts, and are the centre of research into the poet and his circle. Standards of conservation are high. With generous help from the Pilgrim Trust and the North Western Railways Service, three-quarters of the archive has been stored in Douglas Cockerell of Grasmere and it would be difficult to find a manuscript collection in better condition.

We appeal to all who are interested in helping to acquire this highly important collection to send their contributions to the Words-

worth Heritage Appeal, Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria. Yours etc.

BROOKES OF CUMNOR, DAVID CECIL, COTTESLOE (Chairman, Heritage Fund), JONATHAN WORDSWORTH (Chairman, Friends of the National Library), C. V. WEDGEWOOD (Chairman, Trustees of Dove Cottage).

Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Westmorland, November 8.

Royal spectacles

From Mrs Gertrude Shilling

Sir, I agree with Mrs Gladys Browne (Letters, November 9) that a long robe looks better with a tare and usually wear one with the other myself, but when, like her Majesty, I have to make a speech when in evening dress, I have no resort to spectacles, as I can see how one can turn over notes and use a long robe at the same time without growing a third hand for that specific purpose.

Yours faithfully,

GERTRUDE SHILLING, 153 Clarence Gate Gardens, Westminster, NW1, November 9.

The Trustees are reluctant to launch another appeal when one is already in progress for restoring and strengthening Dove Cottage and rehousing the Museum and Library research into the poet and his circle. Standards of conservation are high. With generous help from the Pilgrim Trust and the North Western Railways Service, three-quarters of the archive has been stored in Douglas Cockerell of Grasmere and it would be difficult to find a manuscript collection in better condition.

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## Finding an internal Rhodesian settlement

From Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP for Pentlands (Conservative)

Sir, Nicholas Ashford is right to suggest (November 10) that the British Government seems more interested in international acceptance of a Rhodesian settlement than in its acceptance by the black and white communities in Rhodesia.

Over the past few months Dr Owen has failed to give any serious consideration to the prospects of an internal settlement between Mr Smith and Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Siohlo who clearly command widespread African support. His reasoning appears to be that such a settlement would not command the support of the front line presidents, the OAU or the UN.

So be it. Should that prevent a settlement that would be acceptable to the vast majority of black and white Rhodesians? Which of the principles of the UN, OAU and front line approval before a settlement can be concluded?

Of course it would be preferable for an agreement that was acceptable to all the Nationalist leaders both inside and outside Rhodesia. It is clear, however, that such an agreement has only remote prospects of success. In its absence an internal settlement followed by free elections inside Rhodesia seems a perfectly acceptable substitute which would command widespread support.

One who lived and worked in Rhodesia in the sixties I am convinced that there is a far greater harmony of interest between Mr Smith and the internal Nationalist leaders than at any time since UDI. Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM RIFKIND, House of Commons. November 10.

From Canon L. John Collins

Sir, Now that Field Marshal Lord Carver has left Rhodesia, the International Defence and Aid Fund is greatly concerned that little progress has been made in his efforts to achieve a ceasefire. In our opinion, negotiations can have little meaning whilst conditions inside Rhodesia become more and more difficult and repressive for African political organizations. We believe that the following aspects of the situation constitute an insurmountable obstacle to realistic negotiations on a ceasefire and subsequent progress towards majority rule.

1. Since April 1976 the regime has executed at least 90 people on baleful charges. Six of these have been sentenced to death since the publication of the British White

Paper.

In this climate of continuing political repression, it is not surprising that the liberation movements should regard with the deepest suspicion proposals to retain substantial sections of the Rhodesian Army, the police, judiciary and civil service to maintain "law and order" during the transition to independence. Only when the Smith regime makes a real effort at reconciliation will there be the possibility of an agreed settlement.

Yours faithfully,

L. JOHN COLLINS, President, International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, 2 Ainslie Court, EC4.

November 8.

Yuri Orlov's imprisonment

From Mr John Macdonald, QC

Sir, On Thursday, November 10, Academician Yuri Orlov will have been in the Levitsky prison in Moscow for nine months. Under Soviet law that is the period for which a person can be held without being brought to trial. Even the nine month period is only permitted in cases of special complexity.

Orlov was chairman of the Helsinki group. He and his colleagues published 19 factual reports on the abuse of human rights in the Soviet Union. He has been charged under article 190(1). There is a special complexity about the Orlov case.

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## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
November 11: The Queen this morning visited the Royal College of Defence Studies, Regent's Square, London, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the College.

Her Majesty was received upon arrival by the Commandant (Admiral Sir Ian Easton) and the Secretary (Brigadier T. I. G. Gray).

The Lady Susan Hussey, Mr William Hesketh, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Alan Stanbridge and Lieutenant Robert Guy, RN, were in attendance.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Hon Sir March Charteris had an audience of The Queen this afternoon and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Private Secretary to Her Majesty and Keeper of The Queen's Apartments.

Sir Frederick Ashton had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, arrived at the Scott Polar Research Institute this morning and was received by the Vice-Chancellor (Sir Alan Corry) and Dr David Robinson, Director of Corpus Christi College (Sir Duncan Wilson), was entertained at luncheon in the College.

This afternoon, The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Old and City Colleges where His Royal Highness was received by the Master (Mr R. O. Matthews).  
The Duke of Edinburgh later declared open the Merchant School, attended the service and was present at dinner with the Master and Fellows in Trinity College.  
Lieutenant-Commander Anthony Blackford, RN, was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE  
November 11: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning planted a Cross in the Royal British Legion Field of Remembrance, St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

Airs Patrick Campbell-Preston and Major John Griffin were in attendance.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon Michael Alcock today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, The Royal Yeomanry, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Bingley also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Adjutant-General of the Royal Yeomanry.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
November 11: The Duke of Gloucester opened the Redbridge Show, this afternoon.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE  
November 11: Princess Alexandra this morning opened the Slat Scottish Motor Show at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

Her Royal Highness who travelled on an aircraft of The Queen's Flight was attended by the Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard.

Sir Richard Taitton-Sykes regretted he was unable to attend the memorial service for the Earl of Arran.

The Norwegian Ambassador will open the Christmas bazaar and festival in aid of the Norwegian Seafarers' Fund, 1 Albion Street, Rotherhithe, next Saturday at 10.30 am.

Princess Alexandra, vice-patron of the YWCA of Great Britain, will visit the Christmas fair at the Europe Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London, on November 23.

**Services tomorrow:**  
**Twenty-third Sunday**  
**after Trinity**

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: Evensong, 6pm; St Paul's Cathedral, Communion, 7pm. Second Service, 8.30am. St George's Chapel, Windsor, 10.30am. St George's Chapel, Windsor, 11am. St George's Chapel, Windsor, 12.15pm. St George's Chapel, Windsor, 1.15pm. St George's Chapel, Windsor, 2pm.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: HC, 8.30am. St George's Chapel, 10.30am. St George's Chapel, 11am. St George's Chapel, 12.15pm. St George's Chapel, 1pm.

THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE ORDER OF THE GARTER: St George's Chapel, 10.30am. St George's Chapel, 11am. St George's Chapel, 12.15pm. St George's Chapel, 1pm.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL: Chapel, 10.30am. Chapel, 11am. Chapel, 12.15pm. Chapel, 1pm.

GUARDIAN CHAPEL: Westminster Abbey, 10.30am. Chapel, 11am. Chapel, 12.15pm. Chapel, 1pm.

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## SPORT.

Racing

# The house of Usher will not fall

By Michael Seely

Wetherby and Chepstow, both grade two courses, occur in the centre of the stage this afternoon. This is a rare event on a Saturday, but first class sport is promised at both fixtures. There is some competitive racing at Peterborough in Norfolk. Millhouse Boy is to be beaten to Peter Scot and Orillo in the day's most valuable events at £24,000 Wetherby Pattern Steeplechase.

Tony Dickinson's Sun Alliance Steeplechase winner, Gay Spartan, is the outstanding horse in the Embassy Premier Steeplechase Qualifier. The drying winds had some ground good to firm at the Yorkishire track yesterday and with Gay Spartan's need of the race I am going for the sister Eherneeseroule who romped home from a moderate field at Southwell on Thursday.

One of the fascinations of the winter game is the way in which the permit holders take on the right of entry to the land and beat them. On the flat, the stables with rare exceptions dominate the scene, but with steeple-chasing it is different. Hunting men and farmers, with a knowledge of horses bred deeply in their bones, since the last century important races. Yesterday at Wetherby, John Dixon from Wigton in Cumberland, with only the last of his season's yards saddled The Last Light, a four-year-old Hennessy Gold Cup favourite. Tamalini. This afternoon Brigadier Clive Usher can follow in his foot-steps, running down Millhouse Boy from Hurst to Gainsborough runners trained by David Gandofo and Tony Balding.

Millhouse Boy was a useful horse in his last season when he won a bumper on Epsom Down, the Coral Golden Hurdle Qualifier at Nottingham. This season, after two initial runs over fences, he finally got off the mark when winning Huddington Judd by 12 lengths at Pelsall with the confidence gained from that easy victory and with further schooling from his jockey this afternoon. Colm O'Farrell. Millhouse Boy will take a deal of persuading.

Gandofo has reason to fear Millhouse Boy as the Scottish-trained gelding beat the Wantage trainer's candidate, Peter Scot, over hurdles last season. But Peter Scot has also adapted well to his new role as he showed when surviving a last fence blunder to race home three lengths clear of Cabot Feath at Windsor.

Orillo, the most experienced member of the field, won last of his three victories over fences, the eight-year-old displayed immense courage when repelling Vulahalo's determined challenge in a handicap at Newbury. Several others in the field showed good form over fences, but I am standing by Millhouse Boy.

The Associated Tyre Specialist Handicap looks a trifling affair.

If Ken Oliver's Tom Morgan were to be at his peak, last season's Grand Annual Steeplechase winner would be a good thing at the weights. However, Tom Morgan was beaten a long way behind Tamalini's Hall in the Arklow Gold Cup last weekend. Tamalini, the race's most treated horse in the race is undoubtedly Wylam Boy, but Arthur Stephenson's gelding has not yet recaptured last season's ability. I am going for Peter Scot and Tamalini, who looked in need of the race when scoring on its initial outing of the season at Wolverhampton.

Perhaps the best bet on the Yorkishire track is Peter Rohan's Aztec Star to beat Tree Tangle in the first of the two Divisions of the Last Light Hurdle. The three-year-old shaped like a scurvy future winner behind Roldes-Tolts at Newcastle in October and his connections think the Yorkishire track will be more suitable than the flat.

The Last Light will now join the last companion, Crofton Hall, in an assault on the big prize.

in the soft ground on the Monmouthshire track he may have too much fighting speed for Fulke Walwyn's Barouli whose two easy victories at Cheltenham have both been achieved on fast going.

In the Tom Caxton Home Brew Handicap Hurdle I like the chance of Fred Winter's Ramblin' Joe, who showed him to be still strong when running by six lengths at Lingfield. At Peterborough the same day, Tamalini's Hall, at Wetherby, the outstanding water shaper will be George Shan's Mister Know All who has a penalty for his last Fontwell Park victory should not prevent him from taking the West Norfolk Amateur Riders' Handicap.

Despite Tamalini's length deficit by the Last Light in the Supermaster Handicap at Wetherby yesterday, Gordon Richards' 10-year-old remains favoured at 7 to 1 for the Hennessy. The firm ground will be against Tamalini who needs a good surface to bring out his full potential. His former jockey, John O'Neill, was on the Last Light and knew just how to exploit Tamalini's weakness. Waiting in front, in a slowish run round the turn, where the going was particularly testing, Tamalini was galloping comfortably in front of the chasing. Ramblin' Joe and O'Neill were second.

Easterby, who had his third success in the novice hurdle-Netheriton, was the second division of the novices' hurdle. Netheriton's Joel and was bought from Dick Peacock. Easterby said that Night Nurse O'Neill's first race, 1000m, was a good one. Night Nurse will attempt to win the fifth race at York, despite being a gelding. In the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle on Saturday, the same afternoon, thousands of miles away in South Carolina, Sue Pigott will be trying to give her gelding the second consecutive triumph in the Colonial Cup at Camden. O'Neill will ride Sea Pleaser, who leaves for the United States on Tuesday. The sole's first race today, John Mark Williams, will be a hard task. And amazingly, Easterby, who considers anywhere south of the Trent as abroad, is also making the long journey.

Jellaby runs clear of rivals in the straight

From Desmond Stoneham  
French Racing Correspondent  
St Cloud, Nov 11

Jellaby dominated the Prix

Pereire yesterday and, in the hands

of Brian Taylor, had a margin of

four lengths over his nearest rival.

After a struggle, second place

went to Falcons by three-quarters of a length from Falguie,

then came Smoggy, Dona Barod,

and Kestrel Star.

Although Easterby briefly led

the field after the start, his travelling companion, Jellaby, was

soon in control. Running round

the turn, where the going was

particularly testing, Jellaby was

galloping comfortably in front of

the chasing. Ramblin' Joe and

O'Neill were second.

Sue Pigott had an unhappy day

at the start of the last race at

Newbury, but she did not

lose her nerve and won the fourth place.

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## Jellaby runs clear of rivals in the straight

By Richard Streeton

Is swimming about gold medals or reaching the river bank when in trouble? The question arose in talks with British swimming officials this week and epitomized the compromise never far away from the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA). The British programme in the ASA's history is faced over the coming months. Once again there can be no help from anything like the regulated and state-aided approach in eastern European countries, or the American university scholarship system.

Britain, however, still managed to finish among the leading half dozen nations at both the 1976 Olympic Games and the European championships this year in Sweden. It was a remarkable success ratio and there are no indications yet that it has finished.

However, competitive swimming forms only one fifth of the ASA's responsibilities. Among British governing bodies for a major sport, they are responsible for the relay, the national team, the European championships, the Commonwealth Games and the world championships.

In the straight, Jellaby began to increase his advantage and the race was just a battle for the four lengths over his nearest rival. After a struggle, second place went to Falcons by three-quarters of a length from Falguie, then came Smoggy, Dona Barod, and Kestrel Star.

Although Easterby briefly led the field after the start, his travelling companion, Jellaby, was soon in control. Running round

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'I am pretty sure our way is preferable to Eastern Europe's'

## How Britain will show them how

By Richard Streeton

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However, competitive swimming forms only one fifth of the ASA's responsibilities. Among British governing bodies for a major sport, they are responsible for the relay, the national team, the European championships, the Commonwealth Games and the world championships.

Against this background of compromise and separate responsibilities, it was illuminating to hear the views of the man who has remained to the end of his life a devotee of British swimming. It is a slight exaggeration to regard Alan Clarkson, a blunt and realistic Yorkshireman, as the sport's 'gentle terrible'. But there is no doubt that he has established within swimming's hierarchy that initially it was not easy and that few could be better fitted for the job.

Mr Clarkson, a self-employed chartered accountant in York, has recently been re-appointed as England team manager for the Commonwealth Games at Edmonton from August 28-Sept 3. The British team will be based at the William Hill Future Stakes. Before that, he was second to Noir et Or in the Prix Saint-Martin, a sprinter and Radetek, and Radetek faded.

Mr Clarkson believes that the factor which governed so many swimmers being so young was not necessarily anything to do with physical attributes. Some children were over the only people able to put in four hours a day training which nowadays was deemed necessary. He had reservations, incidentally, about the young children themselves. I studied the thoughts of their lives and found that some of them were not very good," he said.

Travelling, too, was an important part of the swimmer's education. "It is a pity that the distance records broken by the young swimmers in the Commonwealth Trophy at Angers on Sunday. On this course there will be a return to the traditional English games and the distances are not so great. I hope that the swimmers will be able to return to the water and get used to the distance records compared with the distance records in the European Championships," he said.

Mr Clarkson, inevitably, could never award swimming scholarships as such, but he felt they could make a larger contribution to the sport if the government would allow the swimming authorities to do more for swimming.

Mr Clarkson, who was in charge of the third time at Commonwealth and

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Effort to suppress bribery report in 5-nation clash over tough prevention code

By Malcolm Brown

A call for tough measures to fight commercial and political corruption has been made by a top-level commission set up two years ago to investigate extortion and bribery.

Pressure is being brought to suppress the report of the commission whose members include Lord Sh�yler, Mr Jean Rey, former president of the European Commission, and Sheikh Yamani, Saudi Arabia's petroleum minister.

But representatives from Britain and the United States are expected to fight the report's main opponents—Germany, France and Belgium—and press for its publication after the November 29 meeting of the 54-nation International Chamber of Commerce, the Paris-based organization which set up the commission.

A copy of the report in the possession of *The Times* shows that the commission wants stringent new measures at national and international level to combat bribery. It also wants a voluntary code of ethics for business which would be policed by an international panel.

The commission gives its backing to the inter-governmental treaty on corruption being drafted under the aegis of the United Nations and says that this should commit states to fight extortion and bribery.

It should provide for stringent anti-corruption measures by individual governments; international cooperation and judicial assistance in dealing with extortion and bribery; and co-operation by all states in investigating and prosecuting offenders.

At a national level the commission wants to see disclosure procedures for both government officials involved in business

transactions and for business enterprises dealing with governments or government-controlled organizations.

States would be expected to devise means of making periodic reports to an appropriate governmental body about the financial interests and total wealth of officials and their immediate families. Reports would also have to be prepared on all payments and gifts received by government officials and their immediate families from enterprises doing business with those governments.

Also the commission wants to see provisions which would allow governments access to company information about agents dealing with public bodies or officials.

The commission dismisses the argument that corruption is always initiated by businesses.

"The truth is that much bribery is in fact the response to extortion," the report says. Enterprises have too often had the experience, in many countries, of having to choose between giving in to extortion or not doing business.

At the least it is true to say that, as in the case of theft, there would be no bribes if there were no willing and often demanding receivers."

Neither governments nor business alone could tackle the problem, so what was needed was complementary action by governments and the business community.

The commission suggests that the business community should establish a code of ethical practices under the wing of the ICC and that an international panel should be set up to oversee its implementation.

It is this section of the report which has caused most dissent-

### New £600m Treasury stock issue

By John Whitmore

Financial Correspondent

The Government is to continue its funding programme with the issue of a new £600m stock, Treasury 10 per cent, 1992, which will be fully paid up by application. It is being offered at 92½ per cent to give a running yield of 10·47 per cent and a gross redemption yield of 10·62 per cent.

What kind of reception the stock will get when it goes on offer next Thursday will depend to a large extent on how the gilt market performs early next week.

Although the authorities feel that the price has been set roughly in line with the market, brokers tended to feel that the stock was slightly on the dear side.

Yesterday prices at the longer end of the market improved by around 75p.

**Swiss national bank:** In an attempt to mop up the excess inflow caused by recent large currency inflows, the Swiss national bank is to issue Sfr 500m of short term securities with commercial banks. The paper will be for one year and will carry a 1·5 per cent coupon well below market rates.

### Mr Blumenthal asserts need for a strong dollar

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Nov 11

Mr Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury, repeatedly asserted today that the Carter Administration wanted a strong dollar, and that the United States and the world derived no benefit from either a general weakening of the currency or from a deviation in terms of one or two specific foreign currencies.

He stated at a Senate Banking Committee meeting that the United States would continue to intervene in the exchange markets "to support our erratic fluctuations," but that heavy intervention was not the way to maintain a strong dollar.

The approach must be based upon strengthening the domestic economy and reducing energy imports.

Mr Blumenthal said he did not expect the dollar to continue to weaken on the foreign exchange markets. Under questioning from Senator William Proxmire, the committee chairman, he said that there should be no doubt that the Treasury was "absolutely in charge of the nation's currency policies" and that in carrying out these policies it worked

closely and cooperatively with the Federal Reserve".

He added that the continual consultations with the governments of West Germany, Japan and several other countries on foreign exchange matters demonstrated most clearly that the United States did care about its exchange rate—the strength of the dollar is of great importance to us."

He said the fortunes of the dollar would be improved by administration actions that aim to make further progress on reducing domestic inflation and seek to ensure a 5 per cent rate of gross national product growth next year.

In this regard, the Treasury Secretary left no doubt that President Carter would propose tax reductions early in the new year. It was important for the Administration to offer some tax relief in individuals' pay packets greater opportunities for increased profitability.

Wall Street rose again: Continuing enthusiasm on Wall Street yesterday pushed the Dow Jones industrial average 13·34 points to close at 845·89. Over 35 million shares were traded, and the market has now gained nearly 30 points in the past three sessions.

### More optimistic view by investors

#### In brief

For the first time in a fortnight the FT index was back over 500 on the London stock market yesterday as investors took a more optimistic view of the industrial scene.

At 501·4 it closed 11·7 better on the day and 25·2 higher over a week dominated by the selloff of oil and industrial news.

Gilt-edged securities were also in good form scoring early gains of almost 2·1 which were sustained by the hope of a good set of trade figures on Monday.

Investor's week, page 21

group which processes all sugarbeet grown in the United Kingdom. It will complete the "Europeanization" of the British sugar industry by making the country supply more than half of its consumption for the first time by 1980. The corporation would not entail changes in the size of its labour force.

**Cost of gains indexing:** Indexing capital gains to take account of inflation would incur costs of the order of £250m if recent inflation rates continued, according to a Treasury

answer to a Parliamentary question published yesterday. The yield of the tax is presently £330m. Zero-rating repair and maintenance work in construction would cost about £125m a year.

**£22m Wimpey order:** George Wimpey & Co (Nigeria) has won a £22m contract from the Federal Military Government to build troop quarters at Lokoja, Kwarra state.

The contract, due to be completed in August 1979, will be carried out under the direction of the Armed Forces Development Projects Task Force in Lagos.

Wimpey is already working on two large Nigerian contracts—one worth £28m

The Times index: 209·57+3·90  
The FT index: 501·4+11·7

#### How the markets moved

#### Ixes

Ad 4p to 5p  
Scham 5p to 6·5p  
Bt 7p to 23·5p  
Bt 20p to 31p  
Celia Inv 18p to 23p  
Fis 10p to 40p  
Pit & Smith 3p to 3p  
Horizon 10p to 9·7p  
Ker Ultman 5p to 5·1p  
Lever & Gen 5p to 6p  
Mawd 13p to 26p

Morgan-Camp 26p to 19·1p  
Oil Exploration 12p to 24p  
Pork Farms 15p to 38p  
Powell Dairies 12p to 21p  
Richardsons W 14p to 21p  
Reed & Colm 13p to 44p  
Royal 13p to 42p  
Shell 16p to 57p  
Thorn 12p to 416p  
Tube Invest 12p to 40p  
Vickers 11p to 204p

Gold gained 80·75 to 8167·525.  
SDR-9 vs 1·17965 on Friday,  
while SDR-E was 0·648925.

Commodities: Reuter's index was 1465·5 (previous 1462·0).

Reports, pages 21 and 22

Eyes were strong.  
Gilt-edged securities added 2·1.  
The pence 98·5 per cent  
(active rate 37·42 per cent).  
Stock was 35 points down at 51.  
The effective exchange  
rate was at 63·8.

Reports, pages 21 and 22

### ICL shares drop after head resigns

By Kenneth Owen  
Technology Correspondent

Shares in International Computers, Britain's main indigenous computer company, fell 10p yesterday to 206p after the resignation for family medical reasons of Mr Geoffrey Cross, the managing director.

Mr Cross was recruited from Univac, one of the larger United States computer suppliers, five and a half years ago, since when ICL's turnover and pre-tax profit have risen from £124m and £23·3m in 1972 to £226m and £23·1m in 1976. Unofficially the company's 1977 turnover has been put at £240m.

He is succeeded by Dr Christopher Wilson, formerly director of ICL's International division, but will remain in the ICL board until the end of this year.

Mr Cross said yesterday that the primary reason for his decision to resign was anxiety over the health of his two sons, Stephen, aged two and a half, and Geoffrey, aged five. They had suffered severely and continually from bronchitis, and medical advice had recommended a move to a warm, dry climate.

Provisions are sought in the code to regulate agents and intermediaries and to ensure that there are no "secret accounts" kept by companies.

On agents the code says that enterprises should maintain a record of the names and terms of employment of all agents dealing with public bodies or state enterprises whose remuneration exceeds £50,000 (about £23,000) a year. This record would be open to inspection by auditors and government bodies.

The international panel the commission wants to oversee the code would have wide-reaching powers. These have already been watered down after much argument within the ICC, but still remain unacceptably far removed from the original intent.

Among the most controversial suggestions made by the commission is that the panel should have the power, at discretion, to name organizations denounced to it as having given bribes, if the organizations have refused to appear before the panel.



Mr Cross (centre) outgoing managing director of International Computers with Dr Wilson (right) who succeeds him and Mr Tom Hudson, chairman.

returning early in the new year most from such problems, but to the United States, where he was a perfectionist, and a better understanding between management and the trade unions over the past two years would have produced better results.

Mr Cross said yesterday that his primary reason for his decision to resign was anxiety over the health of his two sons, Stephen, aged two and a half, and Geoffrey, aged five. They had suffered severely and continually from bronchitis, and medical advice had recommended a move to a warm, dry climate.

A secondary reason for his decision, Mr Cross said, was disappointment in his inability to contain some of the company's industrial relations problems. ICL had suffered less than failures to meet delivery commitments to customers.

Mr Cross said yesterday that his primary reason for his decision to resign was anxiety over the health of his two sons, Stephen, aged two and a half, and Geoffrey, aged five. They had suffered severely and continually from bronchitis, and medical advice had recommended a move to a warm, dry climate.

Commenting on the fall in ICL share prices, Mr Hudson drew a comparison with those of "Chloride" when Mr Michael Edwards moved to Leyland, and said he was sure they would come up again.

### Belfast bids for Fairey offshoot fail

Short Brothers, the Belfast aircraft group, last night disclosed that it had made abortive bids to buy the British/Norman Islander and Trident aircraft interests in the United Kingdom and Belgium.

Fairchild, the engineering group that last month called in a receiver after heavy losses on its Belgian operations.

Two offers were made by Short Brothers, one to the Fairey receiver for the United Kingdom interests, and the other to the Belgian authorities that now have effective control of the operations there.

But Short Brothers said that both offers had been rejected.

Originally it had hoped to buy just the British operations. But after discussions with the Belgian authorities it had become clear that because of some crucial rights, including a stake in the British/Norman, agreement with both parties would be required.

### Texan goes to rescue of UK oil rigs in Sahara

Berry Wiggins, the oil group, now to be called KCA International, has been rescued from dire cash flow problems by Mr Travis Ward, an independent oilman from Texas.

Described by one observer as being "just like the arrival of the United States Cavalry in the nick of time", the deal involves the issue of £4·5 million new shares to Mr Ward at 33p, or 24 per cent of KCA.

The company's problem, centered on four rigs in the Sahara Desert in Algeria.

The loss on this operation last year was £6m and another £2·75m was provided for this year.

Manufacturers Hanover Leasing International had extended a loan of \$21·6m (£12m) to fund these rigs and the deal with Mr Ward involves the clearance of this debt.

Mr Bristol, chairman of Berry Wiggins, claimed yesterday that it would have been difficult for the company to afford to get the rigs out of Algeria without outside help.

KCA's only remaining debts are: £1·5m in overdrafts at the Midland Bank and \$4·3m from MHLI for a drilling contract for Mobil in the North Sea.

Mr Bristol said this level of gearing would allow the company to go ahead with a \$20m three-year drilling contract for Mesa, the Texas-based oil group, in the North Sea due to start in 18 months.

The scale of KCA's problems last year was reflected in an £8·4m cash flow deficiency in the accounts. However, the first four months of this year showed a trading improvement to a pre-tax profit of £305,000 after a £1·8m loss in the whole of 1976.

Mr Bristol said Mr Ward had been known to the company for a couple of years, but recently had bought for \$400,000 a disused rig in Yorkshire. Subsequently he had expressed an interest in the Algerian rigs and a stake in the company.

Mr Ward, who is one of the biggest shareholders in Edsearch, an American exploration company, is to join the KCA board along with colleague Mr Lewis Johnson. Mr Michael Lofting has resigned as a director, and Mr Nigel McCorkell became finance director.

The shares improved 2p.

Bryan Appleyard

### Ford faces another week of disruption at Halewood

By Edward Townsend

Another week of disruption faces Ford at its Halewood plant on Merseyside yesterday after the company's offer of a 3·5 per cent payment for craft apprentices, a deal that has already been accepted by craftsmen in the Luton and Dunstable factories.

This week, output of Escort cars and vans has been halted by separate disputes on the day and night shifts in the paint shop, causing almost 8,000 workers to be on strike or laid off.

The night shift dispute developed when 21 painters stopped work over a Manning issue.

They were to return on Monday when the shifts change over on a fortnightly rota system and the 4,000 workers laid off will be recalled.

Scottish Motor Show: Some day shift workers this week were laid off because of a dispute over the dismissal of a painter who allegedly assaulted a foreman.

The issue is further complicated by a decision by the plant's transport drivers not to resume work until the dismissed matter is resolved. This could mean that those recalled next week could be laid off again within a few hours.

The Europeans and Japanese are far more competitive.

They supply their dealers and fill their pipelines. We have a sort of death wish and we have to stop it now.

### Engineers attack Acas over denial of recognition

A furious attack on the Engineering, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) came yesterday from the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE) in the wake of the service's refusal to recommend recognition for the association in negotiations at the Bedford engineering company of W. H. Allen & Sons.

Six thousand workers have been laid off at Ellenside Port, and it was not clear yesterday whether the company intended to recall the 14,000 laid off from the other two plants.

Scottish Motor Show: Some day shift workers this week were laid off because of a dispute over the dismissal of a painter who allegedly assaulted a foreman.

The issue is further complicated by a decision by the plant's transport drivers not to resume work until the dismissed matter is resolved. This could mean that those recalled next week could be

## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

### Grouse

Many investment trust companies have been attempting to smarten up the presentation of their annual shareholders' wave of idealism that is sweeping parts of the movement.

But, under the present rules covering the amount of disclosure required by the investment trust groups, the slower, or staler, ones are still able to get away with giving shareholders less than a peep at the underlying assets.

The Stock Exchange requires companies to reveal their largest investments to shareholders and any holding of over 5 per cent has to be revealed automatically any way under a recent amendment in company law. But within those requirements investment trust groups can interpret the Stock Exchange's regulations more or less as they wish. Some merely give the ten largest holdings—some give the top 20.

The Stock Exchange also requires a breakdown of geographic spread, industrial sectors and the ratio of equities to fixed interest securities. But even when a group has fulfilled these rather vague requirements its shareholders can still be left monumentally ignorant about their group's investments.

Contrast this with the requirements for unit trust groups, where portfolios must be revealed in their entirety once a year. Investment trust shareholders do not even have the automatic right to receive full details of their group's year-end holdings by applying to the company.

Several investment trust companies do, of course, offer the full unexpurgated version on request and a number of trust companies have, happily, adopted the annual habit of full disclosure. The five Schroder Wagstaff trusts, Stewart American's Scottish American trust and Ivory & Sime's British Assets are examples. But dozens continue to disclose little other than the top ten or so holdings.

The Association of Investment Trust Managers should consider giving its members some firm guidance on disclosure—it cannot, after all, do the public image anything other than good. Professional investors or advisers would find the information useful, particularly in working out more accurate asset values; and the more sophisticated private investor would welcome it as an aid in checking the investment skills of the manager.

### Taxation: readers ask

### Covenants • Schedule E assessments • Loan interest • Gains tax

This week's article is given over to readers' letters and the subjects are deeds of covenant, schedule E assessments, capital gains tax, the deductability of gain on interests.

On deeds of covenant a reader writes: "My 18 year old daughter begins a degree course next month and as she will receive only a small grant we intend to make a deed of covenant in her favour. We are not sure where the Government's plans for phasing out child allowance leave us for that year. I wonder whether you would be kind enough to explain please."

The figure shown as earnings for 1976-77 on form P70C should agree with the amount included (if any) in the 1977-78 Tax Return. However, if it doesn't there may well be a good reason for it (for example, because of benefits in kind or accrued bonuses) but the tax office should be asked to explain the difference.

The 1976-77 deductions for expenses, loan interest and other outgoings are also packed up from the 1977-78 Return.

On the other hand personal expenses included in the 1976-77 assessment are taken from the previous year's tax return (1976-77) and they may of course differ from the 1977-78 tax return due, for example, to an additional life assurance policy or the birth of a new baby. I am sorry the system is so confusing, but I hope this brief explanation clarifies things a little.

On the subject of capital gains tax the query is: "My mother died last year leaving a flat in Dorset. The flat is in a state of disrepair and as it would cost me too much to put in good order I shall be forced to sell it. Having already paid gift tax on it, and obviously having to sell at a loss because of the state of disrepair, will I have to pay 30 per cent capital gains tax on top of that?"

I think this reader misunderstands the circumstances in which capital gains tax is payable. There will be a gain for capital gains tax purposes only if the proceeds from the flat when sold exceed the probate value (that is, market value) of the flat at the date of the mother's death (last year). The maximum tax will then be 30 per cent (but possibly less) of the gain.

On the other hand, if the proceeds were lower than the probate valuation, the reader sees little from which the reader says there will be no capital gains tax to pay. Instead there would be a capital loss which would be available for set-off should the reader make any capital gains on the sale of other assets in the same or future tax years.

Finally, following my recent article on job-related accommodation, a "bachelor" lecturer asks: "I live in lodgings, that is I neither rent nor own any property. I wish to buy a house in another part of the country really for permanent residence when I retire but in which I would live during vacations before then. In these circumstances would the fact that I live in lodgings for most of the year prevent tax relief on loan interest involved in buying a house elsewhere?"

Unless as it may seem, I am afraid so. As you do not live in a job-related accommodation you can only obtain tax relief if the house is your only or main residence. As you normally reside in lodgings, doubtless the taxman will stick to the letter of the law and deem the lodgings to be your "main" residence.

For the avoidance of doubt let me stress that what I have said above is not relevant to children under the age of 18.

Turning now to Schedule E

During the many years in which I wrote about industry and all aspects of finance I was hoping one day to write a book about family finance, because readers' letters showed how badly it was needed. So I am very glad that Margaret Allen has finally done it with *"The Money Book"*.

"People rarely budget", she says, defining the difference between proper budgeting and a rather miserly penny-pinching, money-counting attitude. "They may think they do but mostly they live from hand to mouth and then start worrying when troubles begin to accumulate. I hope I have been able to help them to plan, to prevent trouble, to avoid the terrible stress and fright that money and the shortage of it can bring. There really are few anxieties worse than those about money."

I put it to her that money is frightening even before people start thinking about it: that there are more mental blocks about money-management than about marriage, sex or having children. That people who instinctively manage money badly also find themselves bored by it, and so will those who really need her book read all about it?

"Yes, they are bored", she admits. "But I have tried to make them see that it is simple, and then the fear and the boredom go."

She starts where she should and where so few writers of money books ever reach: with a wide guide to personal budgeting. She points out the priorities, the questions everyone should ask themselves and perhaps less easily answer. She goes through every possible ramifications of saving and spending from mortgages to insurance and from travel to holidays.

Jobs and unemployment get their own section, including advice on employment contracts and on unemployment or re-

## Your money and your life . . .



Margaret Allen, author of *The Money Book*.

dundancy entitlements. She carries that through logically to advice on running your own business, or on being unemployed.

Finally, Margaret is in the heading of section three, but I must stress that the whole book is as much about family finance as investment or savings advice. How right it is to have chapters about having babies and the cost of bringing them up together with information on the various benefits involved.

Divorce and maintenance, living together and single-parent families get their own advice, and many a man or woman left alone would find the future

a good deal easier to face themselves by reading her account of what to do in such circumstances, for there are times when the brain fails to focus properly and practical commonsense help and advice are essential. Sympathy is all very well and just as essential, but nobody can actually buckle down to living on it.

If, so far, it all sounds just a little bit much like kitchen finance, stop worrying. The author soon gets to knottier subjects such as taxation, and it is a great help on saving accountants' fees with advice on tax returns—although giving

isn't quite as good as giving.

*The Money Book, Your Money & Your Life*, Sidgwick & Jackson, £6.50.

full credit to accountants and spelling out why and when they are necessary.

In the section on investment she leads beginners through what seems initially like a maze, but also clearly explains how the different money markets work, and takes in commodity and property investments as well. As far as one can be in a relatively few pages, she touches on buying antiques, collecting silver, stamps, banknotes, gems and wine before going on to the rather more mundane business of advice on providing for retirement.

It is at her obvious aim to be as comprehensive as possible, or is it her sense of humour that tempts her to end the section on investing with a chapter on gambling, taking in football pools, horses (including owning the quadruped itself), greyhound racing, gaming and bingo?

That is the whole point of the book, the comprehensive, sound advice, I should add that there is a final section on your money and the law which helps you on consumer protection rights, the laws on credit buying and second-hand goods, on debts and bankruptcy as well as advising on how to find a solicitor and what legal aids are on tap.

Much of the book is, if not all of it, has been used and written before, often in more circumstances, for there are times when the brain fails to focus properly and practical commonsense help and advice are essential. Sympathy is all very well and just as essential, but nobody can actually buckle down to living on it.

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### Pensions

## Contracting out day matters to everyone

You may have noticed with casual interest the recent announcements about the approaching deadline for contracting out of the new state earnings-related pension scheme due to start next April.

If you belong to your employer's pension scheme or are due to join one by next April, you should decide more than a casual interest—it may cost you money if your employer misses the contracting out host.

The Occupational Pensions Board are responsible for administering the contracting out arrangements; they hoped to be able to process applications—tens of thousands of them—over a long period starting in the spring of this year.

For various reasons, particularly uncertainty about the requirements and about the effect of pay restraint, there was considerable delay in the early stages. Even now the flow of applications is only just beginning to build up and only a few hundred cases have been processed.

Regulations recently published allow the board to issue certificates without examining the documents, subject to an understanding that any deficiencies will be put right. This will enable employers to obtain certificates—on a provisional basis—even if their applications are not made until near to April 5. The latest date is March 14.

The urgency at this stage arises from the requirement that employers must give three months' notice to employees and their representatives to allow for consultations with them on any proposed contract out.

Individually, the law also requires employers to give notice and consult about a decision not to contract out; but there is no penalty for non-compliance, and, if an employer does nothing, his employees will automatically be taken into the state scheme.

It is this feature which gives the situation a financial importance for pension scheme members themselves. Allowing for the three-month period since some cases have been contracted out—this figure at least as far as the new upper limit of

is concerned, will enable employers to obtain certificates—on a provisional basis—even if their applications are not made until near to April 5. The latest date is March 14.

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Anyone contracted out will pay 2½ per cent less on the band of earnings between the two limits for people who are not contracted out—this figure at least as far as the new upper limit of

is concerned, will enable employers to obtain certificates—on a provisional basis—even if their applications are not made until near to April 5. The latest date is March 14.

The effect of this change will be to increase the upper limit of earnings on which contributions are payable, the change will be noticeable especially for those earning more than the new upper limit.

So the problems about getting through the contracting out procedure in time are not just the concern of employers or pensions consultants: if things go wrong, it may hit the pocket of scheme members.

tion of "good") and the majority are paying contributions towards their pension benefits under their scheme. The contracting out arrangements are intended as a way of avoiding double provision and double contributions.

Some new schemes are being set up, or existing modest schemes improved, and here again the members are normally being asked to contribute to the cost, or increase the level of contributions they are already making.

These contributions will be payable whether or not the contracting out arrangements go through in time. So if there is some slip-up over the administrative procedure and a delay in obtaining a certificate, the scheme members will find themselves paying both contributions to their employer's pension scheme and the higher rate of contributions to the state scheme.

Both sets of contributions will of course, earn the appropriate benefit at retirement. From that point of view there is no need to worry—they will be no financial loss as a result—but there is a limit to how much people want to put aside for their old age, particularly after a period of falling living standards.

The amount involved is 2½ per cent of earnings between the "lower earnings level" and the "upper earnings level". At present, these levels are £13 a week and £21 a week, but next April, when the new state scheme starts, the figures will be revised to take account of inflation over the past year. The upper figure is about one and a half time national average earnings.

Just as the limits are not yet finally decided, so the contribution rate still has to be announced—it depends on the number of schemes expected to contract out.

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Eric Brunet

units trusts from Schlesinger. The Exempt High Yield has an estimated gross starting yield of 8½ per cent and will specialize in smaller companies. The Exempt Market Leaders fund is a new index-linker expected to move within 5 percentage points of the FT all share index.

These funds broaden the range on offer by Schlesinger to pension funds, charities and other gross funds.

Trident Life is launching a new link to their managed investment bonds. Investors will be able to link to two high yielding unit trusts, the Schlesinger Extra Income and the Trident Income. The main advantage is that the annual 5 per cent withdrawal can be financed from the higher than average income, leaving the capital intact.

New products revealed this week include two "exempt"

### Insurance

## Life funds and low interest rates

While many investors think mainly in terms of capital appreciation, it is usually income which is most important to a life office—and thus, indirectly, to its profit-sharing policy-holders.

That fact was demonstrated at the end of 1974. Despite the fall in equity prices, no significant fall in profit-sharing bonus rate and there was quite a number of increases. This was achieved because of the higher rates of interest which could be obtained.

Over the past few months the position has changed quite markedly: equity prices have risen and interest rates have fallen. While life and endowment premiums many actuaries have recently been assuming gross long-term rates of interest between 9 and 11 per cent. The much higher rates of interest obtainable have been something of a bonus—and, by investing heavily in the gilt-edged market, many offices have been able to increase the overall return on their funds quite significantly; that should stand them in good stead in the future.

Actuaries might have to think again about bonuses and premium rates if over a period of some years long-term rates of interest come down to about 8 per cent or even less, even though inflation might have been brought under control. Much would then depend on what increases in income were

felt that it could be a long time before such high rates of interest would be obtainable again. Where possible, therefore, large offices may have invested at high rates of interest for periods beyond the gap between market rates of interest and inflation has widened.

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felt that it could be a long time before such high rates of interest would be obtainable again. Where possible, therefore, large offices may have invested at high rates of interest for periods beyond the gap between market rates of interest and inflation has widened.

These are the difficulties that actuaries face in trying to calculate the best possible rates of interest for their clients.

It is this feature which gives the situation a financial importance for pension scheme members themselves. Allowing for the three-month period since some cases have been contracted out—this figure at least as far as the new upper limit of

is concerned, will enable employers to obtain certificates—on a provisional basis—even if their applications are not made until near to April 5. The latest date is March 14.

The urgency at this stage arises from the requirement that employers must give three months' notice to employees and their representatives to allow for consultations with them on any proposed contract out.

Anyone contracted out will pay 2½ per cent less on the band of earnings between the two limits for people who are not contracted out—this figure at least as far as the new upper limit of

is concerned, will enable employers to obtain certificates—on a provisional basis—even if their applications are not made until near to April 5. The latest date is March 14.

The effect of this change will be to increase the upper limit of earnings on which contributions are payable, the change will be noticeable especially for those earning more than the new upper limit.

So the problems about getting through the contracting out procedure in time are not just the concern of employers or pensions consultants: if things go wrong, it may hit the pocket of scheme members.

Eric Brunet

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

## Investor's week

**The market neutral on mixed labour news**

Equities staged a creditable if technical rally on the London stock market this week taking the FT Index back over the important 500 mark. Inevitably, the main influence on the market was industrial news, but with much of it proving inconclusive a 25.2 index rise to 501.4 owed more to the closing of "bear" positions and a lack of selling pressure than to genuine investment demand.

The market has yet to reach a point where a positive shift from its present neutral position can readily be discerned, even though the week's gains were enough to move the chartists to raise the top end of the present trading range from 495 to 510 to accommodate a continuing levelling of positions.

If investors were bemused by the miners' apparent drawing back from a quick confrontation with the Government and the crumbling of the miners' action and the firemen's intransigence, market dealers were even harder put to it to take a view.

## MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's high	Year's low	Rises	Movement	Comment
1200	200	Arenson Kwik-Fit	14p to 370	Good figures
1910	460	Morgan-Grampian	48p to 1910	Trafalgar's 200p terms
1440	360	J. Mowlem	22p to 1360	Div-booster acquisition
3800	1110	Pork Farms	70p to 380p	Good div rise
2750	130p	Reed Group	Falls	
2550	96p	Sainsbury	9p to 132p	Daily Mirror dispute.
54p	21p	Stalox	5p to 18p	Margins warnings
200p	58p	Tronoh	10p to 185p	Div cut
				Weak sector

## Motor insurance

**Yes, you get what you pay for**

True sayings, such as "you get what you pay for", and the cheapest is not always the best" apply as much to motor insurance as to anything else.

The cheapest motor policy for a particular individual (no insurer could afford to be cheapest for everybody) may very well not be the best. There are three main reasons. First, there is the level of service provided; secondly, there is the extent of the cover in the policy; thirdly, there is the insurer's attitude towards the settlement of claims.

Clearly, the administrative expenses of some insurers are lower than those of others. It stands to reason that an insurer with a large branch network is likely to have a higher expense ratio than an insurer operating from a single office, although it is not always work out in that way. For instance, some of this advantage is lost if the "centralized" insurer pays a higher rate of commission to the insurance brokers from whom it receives business.

It can be argued that the service from a company with a large branch network is "better" than where an insurer (whether a company or syndicate of motor underwriters at Lloyd's) has centralized its activities, but there are plenty of people who would disagree with that.

In the future, this aspect of service may take on increasing

JD

**Unit trust performance**

Medium and income funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index: +206.55; rise from January 1, 1977: +29.8%.

Average change offer to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: +45.0%; over 3 years: +99.9%.

Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder, Grey-stoke House, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1ND.

**MEDIUM**

Diversified F 124.7 A 209.8 NPI Gr Acc F 55.0 152.2

Framlington Capital 111.2 258.4 NPI Gr Acc F 55.0 140.6

Anderson Unit Trust 105.8 — NPI Gr Acc F 54.7 117.9

Norwich Union 97.9 — Tyndall Capital 54.7 117.9

Ariad 122.9 Minster 54.7 117.9

Midland Small Cos 62.5 122.9 Arbutnott Giants 53.9 97.3

LIA Unit Trust 80.1 — Crescent Reserves 53.9 125.9

Notmvert Benson F 79.7 135.3 Mutual Blue Chip 53.9 105.2

Fiscally Technological 79.4 135.3 Wickmor 51.7 93.1

Friends Provident 77.7 215.1 Equity Law 51.7 155.5

Stewart British 77.5 138.4 Security Plus 51.7 102.5

Met & General 77.5 138.4 Worldwide 51.7 102.5

London Wall Cap Gds 72.1 130.8 M & G Sec General 51.7 102.5

Piccadilly 74.4 84.1 Rowan Securities 51.7 104.1

M & G Trustee 73.8 167.0 Quadrant F 51.7 85.6

Trade Union 73.0 167.2 Canfield General 49.6 120.7

Pelican 72.9 147.7 Thrifte 49.9 122.8

Friars House M 70.1 120.2 Unicorp 49.9 122.8

Legal & General 70.1 120.2 Unicorp Extra Inc 51.7 127.5

Henderson Inc Assets 69.4 114.7 Unibro Income 71.1 140.9

Oceanic Growth 69.3 86.3 Unisec 70.1 175.3

JILL Samuel Capital 67.3 168.7 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Mercury General 66.9 168.7 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Gartmore British 66.6 168.7 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Schlesinger General 66.6 168.7 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Allied Elect & Ind 65.6 120.8 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Guardian 65.2 155.4 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Prudential 64.6 148.1 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Brown Shipley 64.5 111.4 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Unicorn Trustee 64.0 137.8 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Scottish Equitable 64.4 144.4 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

British & Colonial 63.6 130.8 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Allied Capital 62.9 127.2 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

Unicorn General 62.9 138.5 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

British Life Balanced 62.5 157.0 Tyndall Int Earnings 70.1 215.1

JILL Samuel Security 62.5 153.6 Tyndall Bank Second 70.1 109.4

Britannia Domestic 62.2 101.2 Buckingham 27.7 72.7

Abbey General 62.0 128.4 Oceanic General 32.5 40.3

Acorn 500+ 62.0 150.5 National West Gd 22.7 77.8

Rocky Canyon 62.0 128.4 Pricewaterhouse Coopers 22.2 77.6

Wifed Group & Inc 62.6 123.6 Piccadilly Int Earnings 22.2 77.6

SB General 61.6 151.4 Prudential Accumulator 17.7 65.4

Victor Growth F 60.6 148.5 College Hill 14.9 77.0

Allied Hand British 60.5 105.5 Marborough 1.2 57.2

Prudential Professional 60.4 115.2 INCOME A B

JILL Samuel British 59.5 144.4 Framlington Income 103.2 266.8

Lambro Fund 59.3 123.8 Barrington High Yld 85.5 183.4

and A 59.3 123.8 M & G High Income 84.6 193.4

Lloyd's Life Accum 58.7 123.2 Prolific High Inc 84.0 178.2

Great Equity 58.7 94.1 Trident Income 88.7 82.3

Guaras 58.2 94.1 A: Change since October 28, 1976, offer to bid, income reinvested: Both taken to November 10, 1977.

M: Trust valued monthly

F: Trust valued every two weeks.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

**One or two buyers help index past 500 again**

The FT Index rose above the 500 mark as the Government's strong line on wage settlements and the hint of further tax cuts in the spring were enough to spur a limited demand.

A generally brighter view of industrial events was also a help and such is the sensitivity of the market that the index was more than 10 points up after a report that the Arab oil producers would welcome payment in sterling (subsequently proved to be ill-founded), brought a short period of action.

Then yesterday the brighter industrial outlook and the hope of good trade figures next week inspired gains of 5p or so.

Results put the spotlight on the services sector, which Sainsbury lost 22p to 208p after a warning

of future margins and Roots 22p to 185p, encountered an unusual reception.

But the statement from WH Smith met the market's long-term hope of a share split and the stock rose 20p to 210p to 212p.

On the day before the

FT Index rose 10p to 209p

and, as such, made little impact.

After pursuing the terms issue and the hint of further tax cuts in the spring were enough to spur a limited demand.

Among the "blue chips" hopes of an increase in the price of fertilisers enabled

Fisons to hold on to early gains

and the shares closed 10p ahead

at 400p. Lucas continued to

gain ground after the reverse

which followed figures and the

shares gained 11p to 289p, while

Glaxo continued to benefit from

the end of a selling order with

US interests which involved

a rise of 11p to 563p.

On the electrical pitch Thorn

were excited by the prospect of

further tax cuts next year,

gaining 12p to 416p, while

bedroom changes lowered ICI

10p for a close of 208p.

On the insurance sector had

a brighter look with both Royal

Union 5p to 154p and Commercial

Union 5p to 154p gaining

ground ahead of figures due

next week. Another due to re-

port soon is Great Portland

which rose by 6p to 292p in

properties. Land Securities

added 5p to 209p and Inury

jumped 18p to 278p on recovery

hopes. With figures due soon both

were also wanted ahead of fig-

ures due next week and rose

16p to 573p. Second thoughts

about the previous day's nine-

month figures enabled Ultramar

to rebound 20p to 242p while

Berry Wiggins were a couple of

pence ahead at 35p on the deal

with US interests which had

changed hands.

On the electrical pitch Thorn

were excited by the prospect of

## MARKET REPORTS

### Commodities

**COPPER**—Cash wire bars, 100,000 lbs., £100.50/lb. Sales: 1,100 tons. Miners: £60.00/lb. Sales: 1,100 tons. Three months: £55.00/lb. Sales: 1,100 tons. Six months: £55.00/lb. Sales: 1,100 tons. One year: £55.00/lb. Sales: 1,100 tons. Two years: £55.00/lb. Sales: 1,100 tons. Three years: £55.00/lb. Sales: 1,100 tons.

**SILVER**—Was steady—bullion market levels. Spot, £15.25 per troy oz. £15.31. Three months: £15.25 per troy oz. £15.31. Six months: £15.25 per troy oz. £15.31. One year: £15.25 per troy oz. £15.31. Two years: £15.25 per troy oz. £15.31. Three years: £15.25 per troy oz. £15.31. Four years: £15.25 per troy oz. £15.31.

**LONDON METAL Exchange**—Afternoon: £1,450. Sales: 10,000 tons. One month: £1,450. Sales: 10,000 tons. Three months: £1,450. Sales: 10,000 tons. Six months: £1,450. Sales: 10,000 tons. One year: £1,450. Sales: 10,000 tons. Two years: £1,450. Sales: 10,000 tons. Three years: £1,450. Sales: 10,000 tons. Four years: £1,450. Sales: 10,000 tons.

**Settlement**, £1,450. Sales: 10,000 tons.

London: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Miners: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Three months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

One year: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Two years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Three years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Four years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Five years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Six years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Seven years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

EIGHTH: Dec. 21/11.10-19.80. Sales:

£1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

**WOOL**—Cargoes futures were steady. Spot: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Three months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

One year: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Two years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Three years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Four years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Five years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Six years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Seven years: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

EIGHTH: Dec. 21/11.10-19.80. Sales:

£1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Eight months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Nine months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Ten months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Eleven months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Twelve months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

THIRTEEN: Dec. 21/11.10-19.80. Sales:

£1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Fourteen months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Fifteen months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

SIXTEEN: Dec. 21/11.10-19.80. Sales:

£1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

SEVENTEEN: Dec. 21/11.10-19.80. Sales:

£1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

Eighteen months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

NINETEEN months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

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THIRTY-THREE months: £1,450. Sales: 1,450 tons.

TH

# Long Gilts Feature

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Nov 25. § Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 6  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

## Weekend

## SHOPAROUND

Sheila Black

Children tried out toys for me and gave me their reactions, as well as the reasons for choosing the toys they tried. Everything they chose comes from Hamley's catalogue (200 Regent Street, London, W1), and it is also a Mecca, about a crowded one, for personal shoppers. One of the advantages of Hamley's is that most of the toys can actually be tried out, often in small spaces, and played with. The same is true of their newish Model Centre in Welbeck Street (the Oxford Street end) and the new Sport and Leisure centre on Wigmore Street (where Debenhams and Freebody, later Harry Nichols, used to be). The latter is open from 8 am to 8 pm, is staffed by enthusiasts for the sports department in which they serve joyfully because the peculiar hours give them long shifts off in which to train or compete.

But to our children. Mamma made the choice for young Jacob Low, 10 months old and feeling very grown up indeed, he got a set of Legos bricks (£2.25) to make pull-along choppers (£1.15). The set is aimed at infants from 18 months old, but Jacob chews them, throws them, piles them and knocks them down. The bricks are the ideal size for him to chuck and handle, and he loves the hollow undersides into which his fingers just fit for prodding. He packs and repacks the Legos into its box, which is very strong with a corner made so that his parents feel their money has been well spent because the set will not only become a more educational toy, lasting for years, but the set can be added to as time goes by. Jacob does everything but make elephants.

Jacob's brother, Sampson (aged eight) does not like flimsy toys "I don't mind fairly strong ones. I like model planes because I can use them with my soldiers and any toys which go with things I've got already and look because a lot of the time I'm reading—excuse my writing, because I've broken my arm." His writing was excellent. Albin, aged six, likes models, outdoor games and pottery, but three-year-old Joshua, who writes almost legibly—dislikes noisy toys.

Zoe Hawton, aged eight, is a typical collection of girls who hates being given girl's toys and her opinion sums up the others when she says: "I don't usually like my Christmas presents because people always buy me girl's toys and boy's toys are usually more exciting, but friends laugh when I tell them and never get them for me, although they are not expensive. My Mummy and Daddy are good and nice what I want is an instance that got a bionic Action Man and a Meccano set and they did not think it was funny, but the kids at school did." She chose a torch which was "marvellous and definitely worth it and I play with it every single day and keep it under my pillow because I love it. My sister and I have played nearly every day with the car and the articulated transporter", which is £4.65 with drop-down top deck, rear-loading ramp and front Mambobox cars. A smaller transporter with aeroplane is £1.85.

Fiona, aged 15, could not resist the chemistry set by Thomas Salter Science because, although she does not like chemistry "this is quite different and great fun". Denys Fisher's Potters Wheel and Airfix Cross Stitch were tricky at first, often difficult, but enough fun to be acceptable, though designed principally for girls.

More girls than I care to count were in love with radio-controlled cars and helicopters (for millionaires at £4.57 for the latter, although the cars are from about £2.25).

Scott (14) condescended a bit when he put Pin Pictures into a class for the "younger generation" and thought young girls would love them. But he loved the pottery wheel and did not think of it as only a girlie art. At Clifton, 11, found the potter's wheel disappointing, loved the chemist, and the Pin Pictures on which he comments that "girls would like but so would boys."

Elizabeth Blake (aged six) fell for Holly Hobbits play sets from which you can make little dolls' houses, money boxes, dolls, wall plaques, jewellery, a little die-cast rocking horse and so on, and I do thoroughly commend her choice because these kits are from 99p for the little diecast models through varying prices to £3.99. Elizabeth did not like the wall plaques when she came to make them, but she adored the first weaving loom by John Adams toys at £1.95. She would have wanted roller skates but thought them expensive at £6.50 up to Size 3 or £7.50 for seniors.

Andrew Barnard (nine) deliberated long but "at last made up my mind" for the seven-in-one pocket kit of spring-steel mere rule, dividers, screwdriver, knife-blade, light, magnet and magnifier. On the whole, this was a success, especially as batteries were included and he could start playing with them at once (all for £1.65), but he thinks the screwdriver is too weak.

He approves of the walkie-talkie two-way speech set, which works without batteries through 66 feet of cable (£4.60). Each of the

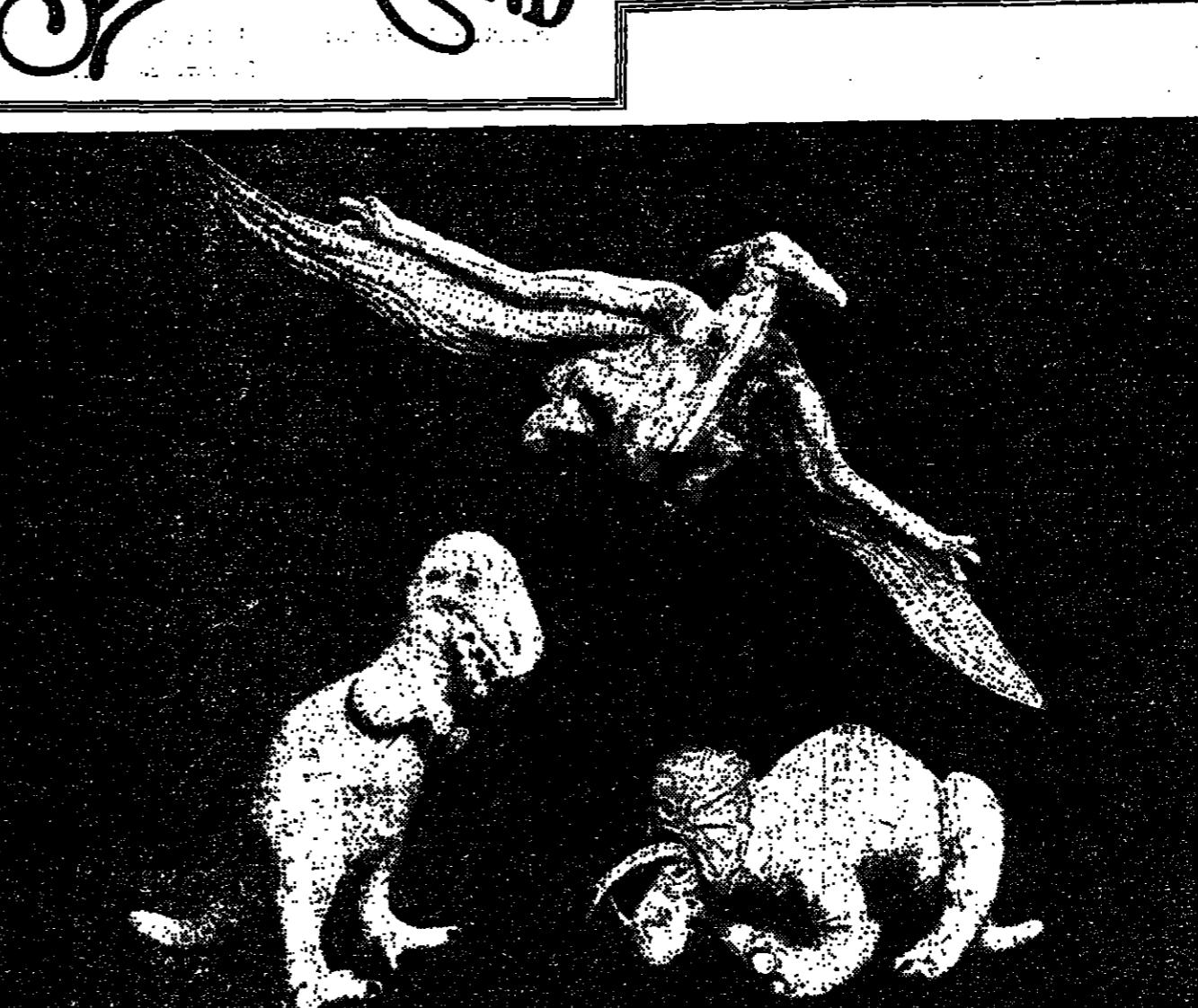


Thomas Salter, already praised for the costlier chemistry set, is good at cheaper sets too. A fingerpaint kit is 99p, as are a flower-making kit, and an excellent little pack of metal puzzles for all ages, called Puzzle Pack. Fun with Soap is a soap-making kit at £1.99 and Fun with Optics or Magnets are £1.29 each. I find fault with a number of their other kits and I honestly do recommend shopping where you can see, feel and examine a prototype box because poor materials are terribly disappointing.

If you do not object to Smurfs and Hutch games, there is an action kit for the young (up to about nine or 10 years old) which includes an automatic toy pistol, belt and holster, handcuffs and keys, plastic willie-walkie, identity card and a poster of Glaser and Soul in their roles. All the components are cheap but so is the total price of £3.99; there is a £1.29 with some additions.

Plastic embroidery kits are very good but I think few children would want perfume kits, which appeal to adults.

Magic kits are usually poorer value than buying the preferred magic tricks and practical jokes separately through Ellisons catalogue, 10p from Dallas Road, Bedford, or from magic shops. There is also a magic department at Hamley's, by post



£3.45 and the dinosaurs are only £1.95 each.

Patchwork for children, from about eight to the early teens, is in a polystyrene pack to make either a 46-inch square cushion or one section of a cot quilt for a new baby; no need for new kits for the other squares because you can use the same template with scraps of fabric from about the house, as long as you remember always to use the same weights of materials.

Building their own dolls houses from rigid plastic panels will appeal to any child whether they end up as a garage or a small block of flats. One set makes a four-bedroom building complete with ceilings and floors, rather expensive but very durable at £12.99 from Galt Toys, 30/31 Great Marlborough Street, London, W1.

The comprehensive mail order catalogue includes the sensible, tough constructional toys and some stocking fillers. They also sell the practical, tough Hangabag shown here at £6.52, (no callers please). Telephone 01-693 6574 for additional details if you have any queries.

Building their own dolls houses from rigid plastic panels will appeal to any child whether they end up as a garage or a small block of flats. One

set makes a four-bedroom building complete with ceilings and floors, rather expensive but very durable at £12.99 from Galt Toys, 30/31 Great Marlborough Street, London, W1.



Drawing by Janet Houston



Photograph by Trevor Sutton

Marcel's range of "Beans" dolls are charmingly quaint and somewhat old-fashioned, with modern faces. Look at this cute little smooth-faced blonde cuddling a separate baby doll which can be taken from her arms or laid to rest in them. The bendy legs and arms of momma doll keep the little one safe. There is also a dark-haired mamma doll with baby and they sell at £4.99 at Hamleys, most stores. The Tree House, and a fair number of toyshops. Being like coloured Swap Shop called Fred with a scarf and Post Paws—these are from 99p, to

three weeks to be made, but the lady who does them has built up a large stock so we shall hope to improve on that considerably. Dresses are in basic blues, greens, reds, pinks and so forth but try asking for a special if you are prepared to wait. Styles are as in the drawing, with a short pinafore over a petticoat and everything takes off. She is made of stockinette in the way that all old-fashioned and original rag dolls were made, and there are spare sets of clothes in different colours incorporating washable cottons and laces as shown here. The little lady costs £5 including postage and packing while extra sets of clothes come to £2.60 each. About 20 inches tall.

From the same lady comes a really delectable-looking rabbit head with a felt face and ears, but the face is hollow, with strong card frame, to hold cotton wool balls, tissues or even light hairbrush and comb. All in pink, about six inches long, and beribboned and lacy, this is an adorable bedside or dressing table ornament at only £1.75 including postage etc.

Orders to Gillian Field, 12 Studley Crescent, New Barn, Longfield, Kent, but please do not try to telephone this collection and despatch address, as the telephone is rarely manned.

Just Gingham is the name of a little mail order business which is run by a lady called Rosemary Calder-Smith. She makes up or has made up sets of gingham things with bordering anglaise for the home like lampshades, lined baskets, hot-water bottle cover as in our drawing, granny lampshades and shoe bags. Her bedroom ranges include sheets and duvet sets, pillowcases and matched sets of waste-paper tubes. For the table, there are tea cups, saucers, mugs, plates, bowls, jugs, what-not bags that are very pretty and baskets for hot bread or rolls.

Evergreen is in traditional gingham in red, brown, black, navy, pink, pale blue, turquoise blue, yellow, marigold, royal olive green or grass green. Pretty as paint in a summer cottage, bringing summer into the guest room, the fancy bedroom or the child's room and nice on a table in the conservatory for those who still have such sun rooms. List and direct order form from Just Gingham, Dunsden Green House, near Reading, Berks (0734 479239). If no reply there—for this is a small business though an efficient one—try 9 Verona Gardens, London W8 (01-937 3087). Deliveries are free in inner London and postage is either 30p or 50p as marked on the lists. Prices are reasonable as, for example, £2 for the bread basket, £3 for the hot-water-bottle cover, £6.50 for a nightdress to match the double sheet and two pillowcases at £13.75. Shoe bags are £1, tea cosies £2.25, whatnot bags £3.50 and children's coat-hangers £1.25. Makes a pretty child's room.

Two units has a compass and inking block to roll the ink tiny Paddington because he when he scalded his arm—a Morse-code buzzer (which needs a couple of PP3 batteries). Peter Starr, also nine, chose a paddle-chopper (£3) to convert bottles into glasses, lamp bases, vases, napkin rings and such like. He also went for a book on the subject for 50p—but that was a boy-like extra recommendation of the Action Men and Richard reports that they are all going paper flowers kit at £1.20. And I liked your discovery that it must be terribly difficult for parents to choose toys that are both satisfactory and within the family budget.

Six-year-old Richard Harrison is a fan of Paddington Bear, as his newspaper indicates, so it was an surprise that one of his choices for cheaper toys was a typical railway station showing a 2½ platform, label round his neck, standing between a nurse's uniform to be like the nurse lady who took her younger brother to hospital (£1.45). He loves paper for printing out; an

inkling block to roll the ink tiny Paddington because he when he scalded his arm—a Morse-code buzzer (which needs a couple of PP3 batteries). Peter Starr, also nine, chose a paddle-chopper (£3) to convert bottles into glasses, lamp bases, vases, napkin rings and such like. He also went for a book on the subject for 50p—but that was a boy-like extra recommendation of the Action Men and Richard reports that they are all going paper flowers kit at £1.20. And I liked your discovery that it must be terribly difficult for parents to choose toys that are both satisfactory and within the family budget.

Little Rebecca Wilcock, aged three, chose a set of little books about cuddly Paddington because she has her own row of books like Mummy; and she had a nurse's uniform to be like the nurse lady who took her younger brother to hospital (£1.45). The second choice, a pop-up Jack-in-the-box music box delighted both children who were enraptured by the rubber which, when turned the handle to make music, when ended, generally poor.

The third choice, a pop-up Jack-in-the-box music box delighted both children who were enraptured by the rubber which, when turned the handle to make music, when ended,

specialist shops. They do not necessarily need everything cut out and ready for them so never underestimate them. It is worth repeating that their minds are everything the Equal Opportunities Commission would approve of and there is precious little mental demarcation as to what is for boys and what for girls, so please do study the child to whom you give rather than put it into false compartments. In fact, far too many adults give the child what they think it ought to have rather than what it really wants. I remember, during my Ceylon childhood, choosing a waxen fairy doll from Gamages catalogue one year.

In vain did my parents stress the unsuitability of wax dolls in hot climates. I had fallen in love and nothing else would do. Her entrancing features began to melt and fudge almost as soon as the insulating wrappings came off her, and the mississippi doll lived in the ice box for ever while the tinsel tarnished and the stiff white shifts grew limp. I could play with her only by lying on the top of those huge blocks. But I loved her all the more, despite her lack of the subtlety of the whole situation, the partings, the dangers and her vulnerability and it was the perfect gift even if I did choose Meccano or Hornby next time.

Every toy must be played with instantly so please, please check in advance on the need for batteries or anything else. And, toymakers, while you do mark the necessary batteries on the outside of packs, please add anything else such as cardboard, a wooden board and suchlike so that it can be prepared in advance of the closed-shop days.

Do not give up the Christmas stocking. The little things in a stocking, preferably a family one from a supermarket, are a thrill of early morning and should be quite different from those around the tree. The pillowcase that contains all the gifts is no substitute because the two distinct types of presents, opened before breakfast while everyone crowds around the parental or central bed, and then the later present giving are so important. As I have said before, try one treasure hunt, puzzle hunt, scavenger hunt or something similar, for old and young. The treasure at the end of the clues trail can be small but the game itself builds up a party atmosphere equal to none.

Make the drinks as festive as the food, pouring the fruit juices or Cokes into jugs or bowls and adding fruit or pieces of crystallized fruit and nuts to the "punch" so that it can be ladled or "cupped" into glasses to look lovely and provide spoons for the final eating up of the fruity deposits but do not hand round glasses with spoons sticking out of them if you might as well not have carpets or furniture. Let the children help with anything possible, from laying the table to clearing it and make it all fun to do. They also love to help with decorations, laying out crackers, placing their own gifts around the tree. The more that everyone joins in, however old or young the more togetherness there is. No word in all those who take a child or elderly or lonely person for the season. Do not let him/her seem left out of anything or you might as well not have him/her.

If his very few gifts look them compared with the number your own children or grandkids are about to receive, hold back some of the latter for a day or two later or give on Christmas Eve, having a small private family Christmas as well. For those who can afford the extra line of gifts, it would not be necessary to visit the lonely or orphaned for a shorter period rather than risk that out-in-the-cold danger. And visit the many old people who do not want to leave their homes but would welcome some visitors with real gifts and some fun in advance or to find out what he or she will be in. An incurable recluse of 80 odd years lives near my grandmother but she loves her Christmas Day. Easter and summer visits to her infinite courage.

I have already written about The Tree House at 237 Kensington High Street, near the junction with Earls Court Road (London W8, telephone 01-937 7497). There are no counters and everything is out to be touched or tried although that situation gets a tribe desperate nearer Christmas. This year they are mail ordering some of their lines, which include original imports from America. The bathtime packs, such as bathtime chemistry, bath crystals, bath finger paints and pink bubbles bubble bath (rather highly perfumed) are in a range called Dirty Kids at prices from about £2.15 to £4.80 per pack though postage adds as much as 66p to some of them. You and they will love Putty Soap at 51p (plus 22p postage on two packs). Just a piece of soap smelling sweet in a cylindrical container, it can be moulded into soap tablets of any shape. Paint your own T-shirt kits; build your own doll's house or model with the Das kits. For stockings, but not by post, try magic pens in a set of five colours with a white pen that changes each to another colour, making 10 in all, tiny wind-up engines, miniature jumping frogs, little swimming dolls in bikinis, and little travelling chessboards for peg-in men are all for low prices. Much recommended with plenty of parking space, near by.

Never try Christmas shopping for children without the Tidias! catalogue, the place with the two exclamation marks of which the first should be upside down, but my typewriter rebels at that. Freed to The Times readers from 8 Savile Row, Bath BA1 2OP, where personal shoppers are welcomed as they are at shops in Richmond, London's Monmouth Street, Dartington in Devon, and in a couple of French towns. The catalogue gets better every year, catering for older and younger children, packed with stocking fillers, original toys and useful things like tough rope hoist and monkey swing at £5.50 to lift bikes and motorbikes to the roof for storage in small garages or merely to play underpaid firemen and rescue teams. The pedometer, wrist radio, masks, rucksacks, electric dice sets, puppets, magic things, practical jokes, writing books and safe, small indoor fireworks are among the host of things to tempt you. All you Paddington nuts, there is a little flock-sprayed figure, 2½ in tall, in his pyjamas for 40p. A bag of wooden beads is only 50p to give endless pleasure but lay in the yarn or strong thread in advance. The secret agent pen's invisible ink reappears only when rubbed over with the pen's tip, lovely for spies or amorous teenagers (give them a pen each, however, at 35p each or 50p the pair). A Kojak wig is 70p, a signal torch red or green flashing is 95p and a magic brain calculator to train them for the electronic age is 50p. Trust me, this is a great little catalogue all-round.

A reminder about Stockingfilla's catalogue of party and small toys, free from Teignmet House, Sutton Bonington, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5NS.

Curious Caterpillar, Halfacre Lane, Great Hornehead, Herefordshire, is another catalogue of little things for trees and stockings, together with some of the bigger things like the original Robertson's marmalade golly with Golden Shred, printed on his tucker and costing £1.35. Wooden rafters, flower fairy mirrors, indoor plants for dolls' houses, tiny telephones or dustpan and brush sets are all in the 50p and under category.

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They love to do things and get a sense of achievement from craft and model kits, and, if cracklers brighten your family, you can buy them for 50p each or more testing kits, probably made up by the giver out of various craft components to

which can be added beads, fabric, paper, modelling clay and the like bought separately at many craft shops, whether these be躬身的 or not. And I wish you could reproduce parts of most of the letters from children about Christmas presents, because the majority seem more often to be disappointed than pleased.

They do hunting, streamers, pendants, crackers in as things are, and they do

bulk yachts, funny noses, theatrical hats, wigs of all

sorts, and more adult

for the letter writer.

I have not mentioned the cuddly toys because, apart from the teddy bear which comes up pretty often, there is such a wide choice and a lot of the favourites are referred to in TV programmes like the Muppets who have won my own heart. So, if you will find a good range of the things, let the children choose.

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To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel:

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01-837 1234, Ext. 7180

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**Entertainments** .. 10, 11 and 12

**Fish Share** .. 12

**Hired Notices** .. 5 and 6

**Public Notices** .. 12

**Social and Non-Secretarial Appointments** .. 23

**Short Notices** .. 22

**Small Notices** .. 22

**Deaths Wanted** .. 22

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P.O. Box 1000,

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London WC2E 8EZ

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**PLEASE CHECK FOUR AD.** We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to The Classified Queries department immediately by telephone 01-71234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not

"The LORD is good, a strong hold is he to us, and he is a refuge from all trouble in that time of trouble."

Nahum 1:7.

BIRTHS

**BATTLE**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Battle, 10, and their son, Michael, 10 months, were born.

**BEACLEY**—On November 11th at St. John's Hospital, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Beacley, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**CARLTON**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Carlton, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**CLAYDON**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Claydon, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**COOPER**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Cooper, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**DODGE**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Dodge, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**DOVE**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Dove, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**FULTON**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Fulton, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**HIPPEY**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Hippey, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**LAWRENCE**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Lawrence, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**PIPER**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Piper, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**PEMBROKE**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Pembroke, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**REINHOLD**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Reinhold, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**SCOTT**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Scott, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**STANLEY**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Stanley, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**WILSON**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Wilson, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**OSMAN**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Osman, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**STANLEY**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Stanley, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

**WILLIAMS**—On November 11th at St. John's Church, Liverpool, Mr. and Mrs. John and Elizabeth Williams, 29, and their daughter, Sarah, 10 months, were born.

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